

SPORT

Oxford's win is a triumph for ethics

By David Miller

If Oxford's rebellion against the Americans expected, on the night of the final of the 1987 World Cup, the victory of the British team was a triumph for ethics.

The British team, led by the captain, had a victory which was not only a triumph for ethics but also a triumph for the British team.

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Tough banquet speeches from leaders after day of 'lively' talks

Thatcher and Gorbachov in open conflict

From Robin Oakley and Christopher Walker, Moscow

Mrs Thatcher and Mr Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, were in open conflict last night with hard-hitting speeches at a banquet given for her by the Soviet Government.

Mrs Thatcher gave a warning that any deal the Soviet Union offered on arms control would be regarded with suspicion until a better record had been demonstrated on human rights.

She made clear her continuing suspicions, and came close to saying that the Soviet Union could not be trusted.

But Mr Gorbachov, who had seen her speech in advance, quickly hit back. Taking up the Prime Minister's claim the day before that she had "lit a candle for peace" in her mission to Moscow, he said scornfully that people should not go looking for the hand of Moscow with a candle in broad daylight.

He complained that she had suggested that nuclear weapons were the only route to

peace, and said that arguments that the West would trust the offers made by the Soviet Union if it changed its political system were simply not serious.

Mr Gorbachov said that those who talked of freedom of choice were talking only of the capitalist version of freedom of choice, and warned the West not to press him to move too fast on glasnost.

In a speech of astonishing bluntness which fully main-

taind her reputation as the Iron Lady, Mrs Thatcher said: "Set her face against the zero-zero option on arms control, saying that it was too big a jump at one go."

She emphasized that the British Government would retain its independent nuclear deterrent in all circumstances.

She supported the right of the United States to test Star Wars weapons to the point of feasibility, thus blessing the "breakthrough" of the ABM treaty, which the Russians had hoped she would not.

She insisted that the Soviet Union must come out of Afghanistan without delay.

She told the Soviet leader to drop talk of world domination by socialism.

Mr Gorbachov's reply at the glittering formal banquet was the strongest response he has yet made to attacks on Soviet policy by the British leader over a wide spectrum of issues ranging from nuclear deterrence to Afghanistan and human rights.

His sources said later that the speech reflected the frank exchanges that the two leaders had during their first day of private talks.



Summit smiles: Mrs Thatcher and Mr Gorbachov at the Kremlin during talks described as "lively but never hostile".

Financial markets slump as trade war fears grow

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Financial markets on both sides of the Atlantic crashed yesterday on fears that a fierce and damaging trade war is breaking out.

Nearly £9 billion was wiped off share prices in London, a record one-day fall, as investors responded to worries that the escalation of the trade conflict with Japan could produce swift retaliation from Tokyo, with the City in the front line.

The FT 30 share index slumped by 38.4 points to 1,582.2. The wider FT-SE 100 index dropped by 46.1 points to 2,002.5. Both were record one-day falls.

In New York, the Dow Jones industrial average tumbled by more than 77 points in early trading, with dealers citing protectionism and the higher inflation that could accompany it as the cause.

Later, share prices steadied but the Dow Jones was still 48.44 points down at 2,287.36

in early afternoon, New York time.

Mr Stephen Lewis, head of economic research at Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker, said: "This disruption to the world trade pattern has blown the froth right off the top of the markets. There is a feeling that all is not right in the world and things do not look as good as they did even a week ago."

Mr Steven Bell, senior economist at Morgan Gren-

ville, said in evidence to the timing and outcome of the general election and gloom about the prospect of an early cut in base rates.

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, said in evidence to the Treasury and Civil Service Committee that interest rates would only be brought down cautiously. He said that British interest rates were high "because there is still a residual fear among some people worldwide that there might be a change in Government."

After the period of stability for exchange rates ushered in by the February meeting of the six leading industrial countries in Paris, the dollar began to fall against the yen last week.

The fall continued yesterday, with the dollar tumbling to a record low of ¥144.70 in Tokyo, despite \$2 billion of Bank of Japan support, before ending at ¥146.35 in London, its lowest ever London close.

The pound rose 75 points to \$1.6095 against the dollar, but was weak against other currencies, particularly the yen and the mark. The sterling index fell 0.2 to 71.7.

Dealers believe that the White House has been willing to see the dollar lower to add to the pressures on Japan over trade. But in both London and New York, there is a fear that pushing the Japanese too far could be dangerous.

Only the huge capital inflows into the United States from Japan have allowed the giant US budget deficit to be financed. To a lesser extent, strong inflows from Japan into the gilt and equity markets in London, have contributed to this year's boom conditions.

In either case, analysts say, forcing the Japanese into financial isolationism would have dramatic consequences.

Record £22.5m for Van Gogh

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The golden glory of Van Gogh's painting of sunflowers exploded all auction records when it sold for £24,750,000 at Christie's last night. The price, £22.5 million plus buyer's premium, was three times higher than the previous record-holder, Mantegna's "Adoration of the Magi".

As the bidding started, millionaires kept to their feet craning their necks, a Japanese collector rushed to the middle of the room with his camera and a gale of excitement swept the room.

There was spontaneous applause as the hammer fell. Two of Christie's staff glued to telephones slogged out a steady battle from £10 million up to the final price. James Roundell, head of Christie's Impressionist department, made the winning bid on behalf of an unnamed foreign collector.

Christie's security arrangements turned the affair into a scrum. Since the smash and grab raid which carried off the famous jewels, they have installed iron barred gates into their viewing rooms on high security occasions.

The "Sunflowers" was hung behind bars in their smallest room and the four security guards were permitted to allow only 10 people in at a time. Many were content to peer through the bars at the Continued on page 24, col 7

INSIDE

£5,000 to Countess for libel

A jury awarded the Countess of Dudley £5,000 damages for libel after allegations that she had seduced Prince Michael of Kent.

Lady Dudley, the former actress and baller star, had sued The Literary Review. Page 3

Woolworth bid

Woolworth Holdings, which recently called off takeover talks with Underwoods, launched a £224 million agreed bid for Superdrug Stores whose shares soared by 173p. Page 25

Lyle's wish

Sandy Lyle, the British golfer, hopes to receive some response from sponsors after winning the Tournament Players Championship, worth £112,000. Page 48

Defiant Scots

Some 300 Scots will be at tomorrow's football match with Belgium in Brussels, defying appeals by the Scottish FA to stay away. Page 48

Fire hazard

The lessons of the Open University computer centre fire are being taught in a new computer and a brainy coverage for the housework. Computer Horizons, 33-38

TIMES FOCUS

Italy is rethinking its tourist policy. A Special Report visits the new places on the Italian holiday map. Pages 18-21

Portfolio

There is £12,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition - three times the usual amount as there has been no winner for the past two days. Portfolio list, page 31.

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Election gibe by Kinnoch

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnoch yesterday accused the Prime Minister of using her visit to Moscow as an electioneering exercise.

The Labour leader turned on Mrs Thatcher in an attempt to recover initiative after his party slumped to third in the polls and his trip to Washington was portrayed as a failure in much of Britain.

He gave a series of television and radio interviews, complaining that he had not been "carpeted" at the White House and that he had enjoyed a "congenial" reception from Mr Reagan.

In a BBC Television interview he was asked about the apparent contrast between his visit and that of Mrs Thatcher to Moscow. It was put to him that the contrast was an unfortunate coincidence.

He replied: "No, it is not an unfortunate coincidence of events at all, nor is it at all ironic. We were pointing forward changes in defence policy which would improve the alliance and here is Mrs Thatcher engaged in what to some people is a wholly pre-election trip."

Asked whether he was accusing her of electioneering, he replied: "It is not inconceivable. Why should she leave it for 11 years as leader of the Tory Party and seven years as Prime Minister before going to undertake direct discussions with the Soviet Union?"

Similar applications are being considered by the Vatican, as any exemption from the rule of clerical celibacy has to be decided by the Pope at the request of the local bishop.

Mr Mead-Briggs, aged 76, is likely to be ordained later this year, and Mr Cornwell next spring. Mr Cornwell's

Coal-fired power stations to create 20,000 new jobs

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Plans for the first coal-fired power station for seven years, costing up to £2 billion and creating about 20,000 jobs, were announced yesterday by Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy.

The two stations, with an output of 1,320 or 1,800 megawatts, will be built at West Burton, near Nottingham, and Fawley, near Southampton, as site surveys by the Central Electricity Generating Board prove successful.

Each would be capable of meeting the electricity needs of up to two million people.

The new jobs, lasting for the construction period of five to six years, will be created in the building industry and among firms supplying the board.

According to the board's forecasts, electricity demand will grow by 1 to 1.5 per cent a year until the end of the century. Last year Lord Marshall, its chairman, issued a warning that by the mid-1990s, the "lights would go out" unless new capacity was ordered.

The decision to build one of the new stations in Nottinghamshire was seen at Westminster as a reward for the area's miners, who continued working throughout the year-long national pit strike.

Mr Walker said: "It is a reaffirmation of the visibility of coal in that area, which is breaking all productivity records."

The announcement was welcomed by Mr Stanley Orme, Labour spokesman on energy, who said it was long overdue. He asked for an undertaking that British coal would be used.

Mr Walker told him that the electricity generating board would continue to buy most of its needs from British Coal as long as its recent improved performance was maintained.

Preliminary work is under way at the site of the 1,200 megawatt Sizewell B pressurized water reactor in Suffolk, which was given the go-ahead two weeks ago.

Last night, Sir Robert Haslam, British Coal chairman, welcomed the announcement by the Government and the electricity generating board.

The announcement meant that coal for power stations could be even bigger business in the future. "Each of the proposed power stations would burn nearly five million tonnes of coal a year and each may well have capacity in excess of Sizewell B."

The first plastic magnet

By Robert Matthews

Scientists in Russia have succeeded in making the world's first plastic magnet.

Made from material more than six times lighter than magnetized iron, the new magnet opens the way to lightweight motors in everything from toys to aircraft.

Theories that magnetic plastics might exist date back to the late 1970s. They predicted long, thin chains of molecules might behave like iron.

New chemists at the Mendeleev Institute, Moscow, have found one of the chains. They have made a small amount of the material, code-named BIPO, by shining light on an orange compound which explodes to give a black powder.

That powder behaves like iron filings when near a magnet, and tests have shown it generates its own magnetic field, the strength of which is still secret. But results given in the latest issue of Nature suggest plastic magnets have commercially useful properties.

Above a certain temperature, magnetic properties disappear but some BIPO samples are said to withstand heat three times the boiling point of water before losing magnetism.

Dr David Williams, of Loughborough University, said commercial exploitation of plastic magnets could be some way off.

Research funds fury at EEC

From Richard Owen, Brussels

With time fast running out for an EEC agreement on research spending, Common Market officials and Euro MPs reacted angrily yesterday to the assertion by Mr Geoffrey Pattie, the Minister for Information Technology, that EEC joint-research projects were a sham.

They accused him of incompetence and distortion, and said Mr Pattie's remarks, reported at the weekend, showed Britain had no intention of agreeing to a compromise proposal which would save EEC research projects and allow funds to be allocated for the next year.

Mr Guy Verhofstadt, the Belgian Research Minister and President of the EEC Research Council, has set a deadline of the end of this week for Britain and West Germany to agree to a £4 billion spending package spread over five years.

Belgian officials said they now expected West Germany to agree, leaving Britain the lone objector. "If Mr Pattie wants a political crisis he can have one," one official said bitterly. "The research programme will collapse on Friday."

EEC officials are especially angry over Mr Pattie's assertion that EEC research projects are inadequately monitored and that it is difficult to establish exactly what current levels of expenditure are.

It is likely to fall to Bishop Murphy-O'Connor, Mr Mead-Briggs's bishop, to perform the first ordination of a married man. He said Mr Mead-Briggs, whose wife is a Catholic, will minister "quietly" at St Charles and St Martin, in Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr Cornwell's wife is an Anglican, but supports his decision. He is aged 52, and they have two children. He is likely to be ordained by the Archbishop of Birmingham, Mr Maurice Couve de Murville, who said the decision was "a recognition of the present ecumenical situation."

It did not mean the Catholic Church was abandoning its requirement that candidates for the priesthood should be celibate, he added.

Spanish oil trial clash

Madrid - Relatives of hundreds of Spaniards who died after eating food cooked in adulterated oil tried to stone witnesses at the opening of the trial here of 38 people accused of importing and distributing the oil.

The relatives shouted "This is not justice, they are our dead" when they were refused entry to the trial. They had come from all over the country and had been queuing since the early morning.

The police were only allowing in those issued with passes by the victims' organizations. As emotions boiled over police on horseback charged the demonstrators, who replied by throwing drink cans filled with stones.

Inside the court the accused were protected by a bullet-proof glass screen. The trial is expected to last at least five months and involve more than 2,000 witnesses.

Report, page 8

The King Size from Dunhill

The wording on the pack tells you that every Dunhill King Size cigarette has a filter carefully chosen to complement the superb quality of its tobacco. This is something you will appreciate only when you enjoy its exceptional smoothness.

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STOPPING SMOKING REDUCES THE RISK
OF SERIOUS DISEASES
Health Departments' Chief Medical Officers

NEWS SUMMARY

Soldier killed in Belfast ambush

One soldier was killed and three others slightly injured in west Belfast yesterday, five days after their regiment arrived in Northern Ireland.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary said two blast bombs were dropped from a balcony on the Divis flats complex on the Land Rover of the First Battalion, Queen's Lancashire Regiment, which has started a four-month tour of the province.

A soldier aged 23 received fatal injuries and was given the last rights by a priest from St Peter's pro-Cathedral near by.

However, the Provisional IRA claimed that it had fired two rockets at the vehicle as it was driven through the maze of narrow roads and alleys.

The area around the flats was sealed for several hours as security forces launched a follow-up operation to track down the terrorists.

Rates cut promise

Conservatives in Birmingham have pledged to cut rates by at least 37p in the pound, saving the average ratepayer £100 a year, if they win control of the city council from Labour in elections on May 7.

Their manifesto, published yesterday, promises to abolish the rate relations, equal opportunities and women's committees because they were expensive "talking shops".

£3m for Aids fight

Britain is to give £3 million for the global fight against Aids, particularly in central Africa, Mr Chris Patten, Minister for Overseas Development, said yesterday.

The donation for 1987-88 to the World Health Organization, about 12 per cent of the project's cost, comes after talks between ministers and Dr Jonathan Mann, director of its Aids programme.

Damages for libel

Pat Booth (right) the novelist, photographer and former model, won undisclosed libel damages in the High Court yesterday over allegations that she was disloyal to her husband.

Mr Desmond Browne, for Miss Booth, told Mr Justice Drake that an "insulting" article appeared in Nigel Dempster's gossip column in the *Daily Mail* in April 1984.

It suggested she had made a remark which would have indicated she was not loyal to her husband, Dr Garth Wood. She never made such a remark and the allegation was incorrect, Mr Browne said.



Police dig on moors

Police began digging for two graves yesterday at the spot pinpointed by Myra Hindley during a secret journey to Saddleworth moor last week.

The search concentrated on Shiny Brook, on the Yorkshire side of the Pennines, near where the bodies of Edward Evans and Lesley Ann Downey, youngest of the moor murders victims, were found. Police are confident they will find remains.

Teenage petition

A boy aged 16 yesterday took his fight to save an area of heathland in west London to the House of Lords.

Lester Holloway has launched a protest campaign against British Rail plans to develop Scrubs Wood, a haven for wildlife, as sidings for trains using the Channel Tunnel. The schoolboy from Shepherd's Bush, west London, was not called to give evidence.

Car men veto strike

Land Rover workers yesterday accepted a £13-a-week wage rise after voting decisively against a strike.

The seven unions involved had balloted their members over the increased offer, which still fell short of their original claim for a £21 rise.

The offer to 6,000 manual workers at Solihull and 1,200 at Birmingham is to be backdated to January 1 and includes new bonuses.

Production of Land Rovers has halved in the past five years, but further slimming of the workforce was avoided by the 15,500 record sale of Range Rovers last year.

Next month Freight Rover is to be split from Land Rover to form a new venture with the Dutch company DAF.

Barristers face time limit on speeches

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Time limits on barristers' opening and closing speeches and the use of one lawyer instead of two in some cases were urged yesterday by the efficiency commission set up by the Lord Chancellor.

The commission was formed last September as part of the package agreed in the wake of the pay dispute in which the profession took the Lord Chancellor to court.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone made clear that part of the pay deal was in return for the profession's agreeing to reforms to their working practices and improving cost-effectiveness in the courts.

But any proposal on the cost-effectiveness of granting solicitors' crown court advocacy rights has been pre-empted by the Government's White Paper on legal aid, which rejects any extension of such rights.

The time limits, aimed at cutting out long-windedness and repetition by counsel, are to be tested in three crown court centres over six weeks, starting tomorrow.

The limit, to be varied according to the case, will be set by the trial judge after discussion with the prosecution.

The project has the backing of the Bar, the Law Society, crown prosecution service and has "been commended to the judiciary", the efficiency commission says.

The commission, with representatives of the Bar, Law Society and Lord Chancellor's Department, and chaired by a senior official from the department, also urges that in some cases a QC should appear without a junior barrister.

"This will lead directly to a small but welcome reduction in legal aid costs", the commission says.

The cases thought suitable for a silk only are guilty pleas, where the plea is certain, which are thought worthy of representation by a QC, appeals to the Court of Appeal's criminal division which are worthy of silk representation but which can be done by a

silk alone, and cases "of basic simplicity which have some sensitive overlay, whether political, local or other".

The commission also suggests new guidelines to standardize the handling of defence briefs in chambers. Clerks should allocate briefs speedily and counsel should return them indicating what needs to be done within a week.

The commission is next to look at how to improve the information provided by solicitors to the courts.

TUC pledge to Labour leader on pay restraint

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

Mr Norman Willis, TUC General Secretary, told Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday that trade unions had learnt the painful lessons of the past and would not wreck a future Labour Government's economic strategy with unreasonable wage demands.

But in spite of his promise, he said an era of restraint would not be easy or comfortable. "I think there are going to be situations that are difficult, but I am pretty confident we can face up to the demands and challenges."

His comments came at the launch of a Labour Party-TUC document, *Work to Win*, which rejects any idea of a statutory or imposed pay policy.

A Labour administration would set up a "national economic assessment" which would bring together government, unions and employers to assess the state of the economy, including pay.

Mr Willis said: "Fully in keeping with TUC and Labour Party principles, *Work to Win* recognizes that those engaged in collective bargaining have responsibilities for making sure that bargaining takes place constructively, and that agreements reached are honoured."

Trade unions would not shirk their responsibilities in collective bargaining and Mr Willis's message to the Labour leader and the country was: "Trust us".

Mr Willis and Mr Kinnock hope the disastrous experience of the "winter of discontent", when unions and the Callaghan government clashed over pay, together with high unemployment will prevent trade unions demanding high wage rises. They believe trade unionists will act responsibly and argue only for wage increases which industry can afford.

The TUC leader said the 1978-79 clash had been caused by a breakdown in communications between the unions and the Government, and he insisted that unions must be involved in discussions.

Mr Willis said: "I believe because we have had a very long, hard lesson - not only a long, hard winter once, and some damn long, hard years since - the issues of pay, productivity, exports, costs and jobs are certainly linked in people's minds much more closely together."

Mr Kinnock said workers faced a clear choice based on previous experience when it came to pay. "Adults have the choice, they can either learn from the sides or they can learn from the rocks." A Labour government would tell public service workers "we are after jobs, we are after improved services. You know that it is only by this means that you can advance your standard of living in any real way."

Photograph, page 4

Caterpillar sit-in will go on

Workers occupying the Caterpillar tractor factory near Glasgow yesterday voted by a narrow majority to continue their sit-in.

The decision, passed by six votes, was in defiance of a court order requiring them to leave the plant.

The vote came as a surprise to trade union leaders, who over the weekend had urged a dignified withdrawal and continuation of the campaign outside the factory.

The company yesterday put pressure on union executives to issue formal instructions to their members to end the occupation. The close vote also indicated the many dissenting voices within the occupying workforce.

Electricians later voted to disassociate themselves from the decision.

The Amalgamated Engineering Union said the company approach would be discussed by the executive today, but he considered it unlikely that the union would make any formal demand of the workers.

After the mass meeting yesterday, Mr John Brannan, shop stewards' convenor, told trade unionists, supporters and workers outside: "Faced with the pressures of court orders and so forth, the workers have taken a tremendous decision to continue the occupation."

"Although it may have only been a majority of six, those six represent six thousand trade unionists in Scotland and six thousand opportunities of jobs in this plant in the weeks to come. With your continued support, we'll bring the company to the negotiating table."

The occupation began in January when Caterpillar said it would close the plant later this year with the loss of 1,200 jobs.

The company said yesterday the decision was in clear breach of the interdict obtained from Lord Clyde at the Court of Session in Edinburgh last week. If the sit-in continues, the company is almost certain to return to court.

They are seeking a declaration that Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, exceeded his powers under the Dockyard Services Act by not adequately consulting them. Mr Martin Mann, QC, for the unions, told Mr Justice Millett it was not an attempt to block the introduction of commercial management into the yards.

The unions' intention was to discover what measures the companies intended to introduce which might affect the rights of their members.

Mr Mann claimed that instead of having regard to his duties under the Act, the minister had sought to safeguard the commercial interests of the new companies.

The transfers of Rosyth to Babcock Thorn Ltd, and of Devonport to Devonport Management Ltd, are set to take place next Monday. Mr Mann said the unions were seeking a postponement of six to nine months to enable proper consultation.

The hearing continues

Japanese strong in all markets

Japanese imports cover one of the widest spreads of foreign goods sold in the United Kingdom. However, cars, lorries and motorcycles accounted for about a fifth of the £5,000 million bill from Japan last year.

Although Japanese companies are increasingly manufacturing televisions, radios and video recorders outside Japan - including setting up factories in Britain - imports from Japan are still substantial. So are imports of cameras, a market dominated by the Japanese, with other optical goods such as telescopes and binoculars.

The Japanese have made inroads into the office machinery market, notably with photocopiers. The diverse sector of scientific instruments also accounts for about £87 million.

The Japanese have penetrated strongly the markets photographic films (worth £21.7 million to them last year) and musical instruments. Japanese pianos earned £1.7 million last year and electronic musical instruments £38.4 million.

Electrical typewriters accounted for another £3 million in import earnings. Even lawn mowers clocked up sales of £7.7 million from Japan.

Ministers to resist bail move

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government is to resist a backbench move today to require courts to refuse bail where a defendant is charged with rape or murder.

Mr Peter Bradshaw, Tory MP for Leicester East, has tabled a new clause to the Criminal Justice Bill, which comes before MPs in its final stages today and tomorrow.

It comes after the disclosure that Winston Sillett, convicted of the murder of Police Constable Blakecock during the Tottenham riots, was on bail facing another murder charge at the time of the attack.

Home Office officials engaged on an inquiry into whether changes are needed to the Bail Act, 1976, are considering whether the gravity of the offence should be made a specific factor for courts to take into account.

Home Office ministers argue that no public interest would be served by refusing bail in some murder cases.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, Lord Chancellor, has made clear his dissatisfaction with the Bail Act, 1976, under which there is a presumption of bail unless there is a likelihood of the defendant absconding, interfering with other witnesses or committing further offences.

Mr Andrew Wilton, curator of the Turner collection, defended strongly the design of the building, which has been described variously as mannerist, neo-classical and modernist.

The main point, he said, was that the building is ideally suited to its purpose, providing natural light to illuminate the oils, and a sequence of rooms in which to display the themes and development of Turner's genius.

The extension had been designed as a museum as well as a gallery, to provide a comprehensive overview of Turner and his work.

"This is for all sorts of people, not just the art historians," he said.

Mr Alan Bowness, director of the Tate gallery, did not agree that the contemporary design of the galleries was unsuited to the eighteenth and nineteenth century works.

Mr Stirling said yesterday that he believed Turner himself would have been pleased with the extension.

He said his design had consciously avoided attempting to create a replica of how a gallery would have been 150 years ago.

"It is slightly lighter in touch. The feeling is meant to be more informal and compatible with the modern audience, who are young, less serious and come in huge numbers."

I am independent says health chief

By Thomson Practice, Science Correspondent

Dr Spencer Hargad, chief executive of the new Health Education Authority, said yesterday he expected to be given "sturdy independence" from political pressures.

He effectively replaces Dr David Player, the controversial director-general of the Health Education Council, who loses his job today with the abolition of the council.

Dr Player leaves convinced that the Government attempted to suppress publication last week of *The Health Divide*, which accused it of widening the gap in health between Britain's rich and poor.

He was ordered by Sir Brian Bailey, chairman of the HEC and now chairman of the authority, not to publicize the report. Yesterday Sir Brian said that he was "no Government lackey" and it was "sensible" to suggest the new body would be subject to Government interference.

Dr Hargad, district medical officer of health for Cambridge, who won the new job in favour of Dr Player and other candidates, said: "I would not have applied for this post if I had not fully accepted what Norman Fowler said about wanting a sturdy independent and campaigning organization."

"That is what I also want and I have every reason to believe that is what it will be."

Spectrum, page 11

Tate extension splits the art world

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

The world's largest collection of works by Turner is to be opened by The Queen tomorrow - while the art world continues to argue about the building that houses it.

With the Duke of Edinburgh at her side, The Queen will dedicate the building in the afternoon, launching festivities that will culminate with a public fireworks display on the River Thames in front of the gallery at 10.30pm.

Some members of the Turner Society condemned the £7.8 million Clive extension to the Tate Gallery built to house the collection and promised to distribute protest leaflets during the opening ceremony.

They allege the gallery is a betrayal of Turner's will. Mr Al Weil said that Turner

never intended his bequest to the nation to be housed in a permanent exhibit, but instead wished the paintings and sketches to be put on tour throughout the country.

"This is nothing more than a betrayal of Turner. The bequest was to the people, not the nation."

"We just hope once the people are aware of the injustice that has been done, the curators here will take notice of the man in the street and not the art establishment."

Some art historians have said that the Turner gallery, designed by the Glaswegian architect James Stirling, is an inappropriate setting for the massive collection of nearly 300 oils and 20,000 sketches and watercolours.

Turner, the diminutive romantic artist born in London in 1775, has always been

capable of generating controversy.

At a press preview of the extension yesterday, officials of the Tate declared themselves unrepentant, and forecast that the collection would generate unprecedented interest when the doors are opened to the public on April 6.

Mr Andrew Wilton, curator of the Turner collection, defended strongly the design of the building, which has been described variously as mannerist, neo-classical and modernist.

The main point, he said, was that the building is ideally suited to its purpose, providing natural light to illuminate the oils, and a sequence of rooms in which to display the themes and development of Turner's genius.

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Mr Stirling said yesterday that he believed Turner himself would have been pleased with the extension.

Charges are dropped

Michael Russell, aged 38, of Maidstone, Kent, an unemployed stereotyper, was acquitted at Thames magistrates' court yesterday of damaging a car near the News International plant at Wapping on December 9.

Stanley Sillett, aged 44, of Elm Park, north-east London, was discharged at Wells Street court after the prosecution offered no evidence on charges of assault and using threatening behaviour outside the Wapping plant.

The hearing continues

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£5,000 award for former ballet star made out to be vulgar, greedy and grasping

Countess accused of betraying princess wins libel damages

The Countess of Dudley was awarded £5,000 libel damages in the High Court yesterday over allegations that she had betrayed Princess Michael of Kent.

Lady Dudley, aged 50, said she had been made out to be vulgar, greedy, grasping and nasty after taking on the role of unofficial lady-in-waiting to the Princess on an American business trip.

The jury took two hours to reach a unanimous verdict. Lady Dudley, of Cottismore Gardens, Kensington, West London, said she left court "in a state of absolute vindictiveness". It has been pretty distressing for me since the article was published.

The allegations appeared in the magazine *The Literary Review* in July 1984, two years after the tour.

The countess, the former actress and ballet star Maureen Swanson, told the jury she was shamed by the article. "I thought it was unfair, insulting and defamatory. I was humiliated by it."

"I was hurt by the whole article. I was also hurt by the suggestion that I didn't pay my bills and had left Princess Michael to pay them."

She said Princess Michael complimented her on her devotion and sent her letters and flowers.

Her counsel, Mr Richard Rampton, told Mr Justice

Drake and a jury that the allegations had appeared in an unpleasant little passage by Mr Alastair Forbes in a review of a book about ladies-in-waiting.

The meaning of the passage, Mr Forbes said, was that after accepting the invitation from the Princess to be her lady-in-waiting on the trip, Lady Dudley was stabbing the Princess in the back by feeding libellous stories to her husband, the Earl of Dudley.

The passage in the review referred to Lord Dudley giving "Tennysonian after-dinner readings of his most un-Tennysonian trade against poor Princess Michael of Kent".

Mr Rampton said it was a scurrilous and damaging attack on Lady Dudley. He said: "It is quite a serious attack on her loyalty, her integrity and her character as a whole."

He said if the jury found it did accuse the Countess of that kind of despicable behaviour then they must award her damages.

The magazine was not seeking to say any of the allegations were true or were the honest opinion of the writer. "What they say is the words were not capable of bearing the meaning complained of."

"They say it was not defamatory, which you might find is a bit of a joke, and did not injure her reputation."

Whatever the precise meaning of the passage, it was plainly not meant to be complimentary of Lady Dudley, Mr Rampton said.

The article went on to refer to Lord Dudley's "scurrilous" behaviour, "coarse and clumsy" attempts to "clothe criminal libels in Clive Jamesian mode", which the writer claimed had the effect in due course of winning considerable sympathy for Princess Michael, not least from the Queen.

The article said: "The unprecedented outcome was that Dudley received a *lettre de cachet* from the Palace solicitors that has since effectively zipped his wife's lips."

That unpleasant allegation claimed the Queen's solicitors had stopped her from telling these nasty stories about the Princess, Mr Rampton said.

The passage also suggested she was disappointed at having to "shell out of her own pocket" the cash to go to America with the Princess, who was not on the Civil List and had to pay her own expenses.

Mr Auberon Waugh, the *Review's* current editor, said after the case: "It is very sad indeed. It all depended on whether the jury understood English or not. Obviously they didn't. I don't see how they could have read that meaning into it."



The Countess of Dudley yesterday outside the High Court in London after winning her libel case against *The Literary Review*, flanked by her husband, the Earl of Dudley, and their daughter Victoria (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

'Reginald Perrin' trial

Double murderer given life

By Ian Smith

A driving instructor who imitated a television character by faking his suicide after murdering his wife and step-daughter, was jailed for life at Liverpool Crown Court yesterday.

After three hours, a jury of seven women and five men found Robert Healey guilty of killing his wife Gretha, aged 40, and her daughter, Marie, aged 13, in July last year.

As the verdict was given Healey, aged 38, turned away, hands shaking violently and burst into tears.

His wife, an auxiliary nurse, was battered to death with a rolling pin in the couple's home at Longmead Avenue, Hazel Grove, Greater Man-

chester. The girl was squeezed to death and received injuries described as similar to those suffered by people crushed in football crowds.

After burying his victims' bodies in a shallow woodland grave, the former Royal Navy Petty Officer drove to Prestatyn beach, in North Wales, and acted out the television fantasy, leaving clothes on the beach like the character Reggie Perrin, to convince police he had taken his own life.

It was not until an elderly walker kicked disturbed soil in a wood at Caerwys, Clwyd, and uncovered the girl's hand protruding from the freshly-dug soil that the routine

missing persons investigation became a murder hunt.

Healey's motive for the murders was never revealed. Police are convinced his step-daughter, Marie Walker, is the key to the puzzle. They know that Healey had sexual intercourse with a child he described as "a special girl with unique qualities" shortly before she died.

Detectors are certain that Healey, put on probation for two years four years ago for inciting a young girl to an act of gross indecency, was willing to go to any lengths to avoid the jail sentence which would almost inevitably follow a second charge of interfering with a child.

Phones may use power grid

By Pearce Wright

Science Editor

The national electricity grid is to be used to carry long distance telephone lines in an experiment by the Central Electricity Generating Board and Telephone Cables.

Optical fibre telephone cables, which transmit messages using pulses of light, will be strung between electrical pylons.

Before the development of optical fibre technology, telecommunications links needed careful screening from overhead power lines to avoid electrical interference.

Exploiting the electricity grid network to carry a telephone link was made possible by an advance in making the new cables. The delicate optical fibres were surrounded by a reinforced plastic sheath

strong enough to be suspended between pylons.

Another idea was to thread the glass fibre through the centre of the earth-return conductor, one of the cables on the pylon lines, when a new section of the grid is put up.

Telephone Cables hopes that using the National Grid will be much cheaper than any existing form of telephone line installation.

Social rift criticized by Young

By Ronald Faux

Employment Affairs Correspondent

Britain can no longer divide its young people into "gentlemen and players" if the country is to succeed in world-wide industrial and commercial competition, Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Employment, said yesterday.

He told a conference of the Careers Research and Advisory Centre in Cambridge: "We need to abandon the remnants of that divide between the horny-handed industrialists and entrepreneurs and the ivory towers of academia."

"We need to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit throughout the whole community, and most of all among the brightest young graduates in whom we as a community make such a high investment."

Lord Young said that all students should be introduced to the idea of enterprise during their time at university and encouraged to consider careers in industry and commerce. All graduates should be encouraged to consider self-employment and careers in the small firms sector, and industry should make sure that the initial investment in higher education was not wasted by continuing to train and develop the graduate recruits throughout their working lives.

The proportion of economically active graduates in industry had been creeping up, he said, but demand for graduates had increased by leaps and bounds.

Lost wife still alive, court rules

A recluse who has not been seen for almost 10 years was officially declared alive by a High Court judge yesterday.

Inquiries have found that any trace of Mrs Doris Green, aged 72, said to have assets of about £160,000, who has not been seen after she disappeared rather than face a shoplifting charge.

She walked out on her optician husband Henry in the autumn of 1977 and although she emerged briefly in 1978, when she drew £2,000 from a bank in Torquay, nobody has seen her since.

National newspaper advertising and checks with the Department of Health and Social Security have drawn a blank.

But Mr Justice Waite said he needed further evidence before he could presume her dead. He adjourned an application by solicitors for her late husband who want to clear up his affairs. Mr Green died in 1981.

Renewed efforts to find Mrs Green after her husband's death failed, although there was a "curious" telephone call from someone who said she knew her and said her health had deteriorated.

Mrs Green was described in court as a recluse with no friends who preferred talking to her dog to talking to other people.

The solicitors want to sell the house she owned which the couple shared in St Luke's Road, Torquay. It has been empty since her husband's death and is deteriorating.

The judge ordered that a receiver should be appointed to look after her affairs to allow the house to be sold without her consent.

3,000-year-old cemetery discovered

Sakikara, Egypt (AP) — After five years of painstaking work Egyptian archaeologists have unearthed a cemetery of the rich and famous from one of ancient Egypt's most illustrious periods.

The findings include chapel tombs from the reign of Ramses II, the warrior king whose 67 years as Pharaoh kept Egyptian power and influence at its height 3,250 years ago.

Home insulation spending rises

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Government funding to provide free home insulation for the poor and the elderly is to rise by £13 million next year to £45 million.

Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy, said yesterday that nearly 500,000 homes will have been insulated by the end of the coming financial year.

The work is being done under the Manpower Services Commission's Community Programme and is coordinated by the Neighbourhood Energy Action Group (NEA).

About 5,000 young people work on the programme now and Mr Walker said that he expected the number of projects to rise from 380 to 500 by March 1988, employing up to 8,000.

But the action group said yesterday that although it welcomed the extra money, it feared the Government's overall reduction of community programme places would mean that many of the planned schemes would be delayed. The number of places on the programme has already been revised from 255,000 to 245,000 for 1986-87 and a further 2,000 places are expected to be cut in 1987-88.

Yesterday the Manpower Services Commission said it could give no guarantee that it would be able to provide the places. "Local staff are aware that priority should be given to a national initiative such as this one. We cannot give guarantees, but we hope that staff will be able to meet these figures."

Spending on insulation schemes is split between the departments of energy, employment and health and social security.

This year the Department of Employment spent about £25 million through the commission, while the DHSS spent £6 million on materials through single payments for draughtproofing. A further £1 million came from the Department of Energy.

Next year MSC costs are expected to rise to £35 million while the DHSS costs will rise to £9 million, allowing for the extra cost of materials and the increased number of projects.

From 1988, single payments from the DHSS are to be abolished and the Government is expected to announce a new funding system soon.

"The bitterly cold weather earlier this year reminded all of us that no one can afford to waste energy," Mr Walker said.

Community Programme tackles crime, page 5

Optician admits fondling patient

An optician was yesterday ordered to be struck off the opticians' register after he admitted fondling a young patient in his consulting room and asking her about her sex life.

Geoffrey Wilson, aged 42, even offered to send his receptionist home so that he and the patient could be alone together, a disciplinary hearing of the General Optical Council at Harley Street, London, was told.

The patient, Miss Jackie Hall, who is in her early twenties, rushed out and went to her boy friend's flat in Erdington, Birmingham, where she broke down in tears, the hearing was told.

Miss Anne Rafferty, for the council, said that Miss Hall had used Wilson's practice for 10 years.

Wilson admitted serious professional misconduct, but he denied a similar charge of committing acts of indecency on another patient, Miss Josephine Davies, aged 34. Miss Rafferty successfully applied for that case to be left on the council's files.

Mr David Seconde, for Wilson, said his client was highly regarded throughout his profession, specializing in contact lenses at his two practices in Lower Temple Street, central Birmingham, and Stourbridge, West Midlands.

Mr Seconde said his client acted "totally uncharacteristically" because he was suffering from the effects of an anti-asthma drug and alcohol after a lunchtime meeting with a sales representative.

Initially there were 4,000 applicants for the scheme. A thousand were rejected immediately because they did not measure up to the basic qualifications of being aged from 18 to 23, British, between 5ft 4in and 6ft 4in tall and with at least two A-level passes. About 10 per cent of those who remain are female.

Hundreds more will be rejected after the aptitude tests. Those that do pass will be brought back to the training centre which has been established near Heathrow to take

Video generation to join the jet set

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Young people with a natural talent for video games are likely to be chosen to become some of Britain's leading commercial pilots.

When testing begins tomorrow of the 3,000 applicants for just over 100 places at the new British Airways pilot training school, those who have spent hours battling with space invaders are confidently expected to come out on top.

"Research has shown that those who are good at video games are self-selectors; they play because they are good at it and not the other way round," Captain Colin Barnes, the airline's Chief Pilot, said. "Even intensive training of those who don't normally play the games

seems to have little effect on the results."

The first batch of 18 from the thousands of applicants will be seated in front of a computer screen and, for an hour and a half, will be expected to perform a series of tests with a stick controller and foot-pedals which, the airline says, will indicate those who have the aptitude to fly passenger jets in the future.

"We have not taken on any new pilots for more than 10 years and, frankly, there was no management experience of what to look for in a candidate," Captain Barnes said. So for the past year a small team has been working with computer manufacturers and the RAF to find a system of spotting latent talent at an early stage.

It is probably the first and certainly the most advanced

selection procedure of its kind in the world and the recruitment team, who have to find 2,000 new pilots by the turn of the century to replace the airline's ageing and retiring flight deck crews, expect to refine the system as they go along.

While at Prestwick they will work for the various licence qualifications needed to join the airline as a first officer, earning about £15,000 a year. They should eventually become senior captains earning more than £40,000 a year.

The cost of training will be at least £50,000 per person and the airline is anxious to ensure that the trainees do not immediately leave to join a rival carrier. They will be required to stay with British Airways for five years or "buy themselves out" earlier by repaying the cost of training.

Hospital to close infested kitchens

By Jill Sherman
Social Services Correspondent

Cockroach-infested kitchens at Hammersmith Hospital in west London are to be closed for four to eight weeks after a court order won by the local council.

The hospital is having to rely on a mobile kitchen from private caterers, airline-style meals and frozen food to provide a limited service for the 600-bed hospital.

The prosecution, under the Food and Hygiene Act 1984, is the first of its kind since Crown immunity was removed from National Health Service hospitals last month.

Within five weeks Hammersmith and Fulham Council gathered evidence for a prosecution.

Mr Colin Thomson, assistant divisional environmental health officer, told West London Magistrates' Court yesterday that he first visited the hospital on March 20.

He saw pests dead and alive in the areas where food was being prepared. He returned the next day and found 42 cockroaches in traps he had laid, and saw other live and dead cockroaches in the restaurant, kitchen and dining room.

He said: "The cockroaches were both German and oriental in all sizes. The oriental ones are the worst because they will breed and live in dangerous areas, and they are a great risk to health because they carry bacteria and transport it by carrying it over cooking utensils and food."

Mr John Buxton, the council's assistant director of environmental services, said the hospital had been talking about building new kitchens since the early 1970s.

"They were timebarred to be finished by December 1985, but the work which would have eradicated the problem had not even started by then."

Mr John Hubbard, the hospital's general manager, denied last night that patients were in danger and said there had been no instances of food infection.

"We had already made plans to close the kitchens before the notice was received," he said. "We have sealed off one area of the kitchen and no food is now prepared at the hospital."

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March 30 1987

PARLIAMENT

Walker attacks NUM chief

The only opponent of new, more efficient, working practices in the mining industry seemed to Mr Arthur Scargill, the president of the NUM. His members ought to put appropriate pressure on him, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, suggested during Commons questions.

Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch, C), who had raised the issue of productivity and investment in the coal industry, said that in view of the decision of the men at Margam in South Wales to accept the new six-day week, should there not be a meeting with the NUM to remind them of the fruits to be gained by accepting new working practices?

No other Government could have achieved the situation which had now been reached unless the rule of terror practised by Mr Scargill had been broken by Government persistence.

Mr Walker said that the great majority of miners in South Wales had been in favour of the protected six-day week. It had also been supported by the Leader of the Opposition and by the Wales TUC.

The one great opponent is the president of the NUM and I hope members of his union will put appropriate pressure on him.

Mr Joe Ashrow (Bassetlaw, Lab) said there would always be support for new jobs.

There was a genuine fear that the high productivity being achieved could lead to fewer jobs. Continually increasing output and the building of nuclear power stations producing high priced electricity could result in an energy crisis. Mr Walker said that the suggestion seemed to be that the colossal over-manning in the coal industry should be kept. Mr Stanley Orme, chief Opposition spokesman on energy, said that reference had been made to a recent report on British Coal which informed that there was also over-manning in the electricity supply industry. Mr Walker said that it was not in the interests of industry to continue the practice of over-manning. Coal was a perfect example where the Government had cut out uneconomic pits and replaced them with an enterprise company that had produced 15,000 new jobs.



Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary (left), Mr Neil Kinnock and Mr Roy Hattersley at the launch in London yesterday of the Labour Party/TUC document, 'Work to Win' (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

New coal-fired power stations announced

ENERGY

The Central Electricity Generating Board is expected, by the end of this year, to apply for consent to build two new coal-fired power stations, one at West Burton, near Nottingham, and the other at Fawley, near Southampton. Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, announced during Commons questions.

[The stations will each be of an output of about 1,800 megawatts, compared with 1,200 megawatts for Sellafield.]

Mr Walker said the chairman of the CEGB has informed him that the board has concentrated its investigation of possible locations for new coal-fired power stations on five sites which it owns.

Subject to the satisfactory completion of site investigations and other work, the board expects to select West Burton and Fawley and to make formal application for consent to these

stations by the end of this year. My intention on receiving such applications would be to consider them and each decision as quickly as possible.

Mr Joe Ashrow (Bassetlaw, Lab): There is no problem with planning permission from the Nottingham County Council and the district council.

The development will be greatly welcomed, with unemployment touching 20 per cent. If the minister can speed up the decision and give it full force, he will receive maximum backing from me.

Mr Walker: That is not true. A substantial number of jobs have been provided in the North-east. What I have said does not exclude the North-east in future.

productivity under this Government. Mr John Hannon (Exeter, C) said that the announcement would be welcomed by the hard-pressed power station industry. He asked whether there were proposals for a station in the South-west.

Mr Walker said that the two coal-fired stations and Sizewell constituted the immediate programme.

Mr Jack Dorman (Reading, Lab) asked whether the announcement excluded the possibility of a station in the North-east, where the unemployment arguments were the strongest and where British Coal Enterprise Ltd appeared to have no effect whatsoever.

Mr Walker: That is not true. A substantial number of jobs have been provided in the North-east. What I have said does not exclude the North-east in future.

Mr Michael Colvin (Roussay and Waterbury, C) said that the CEGB had planned for only one site in Waterbury. But there were other candidates there, about the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty of the South Coast.

Mr Walker: The CEGB are exceedingly anxious to recognise the environmental issues.

Mr Stanley Orme, Opposition spokesman on energy, said that the development was welcome and long overdue. He asked for an undertaking that British coal would be used at the new power stations.

Mr Walker: Probably such undertakings would have been impossible but for the improved performance of British Coal.

Provided that that continues and is enhanced, the CEGB will continue to buy most of its coal from British Coal.

Mr Rhodes James (Defence of Universities) made available to national museums and galleries had risen by 13 per cent in real terms since 1979-80, thousands, if not millions, were prepared to visit museums, including the many independent museums, where there were charges.

They also went to country houses and subsidised theatres where charges were made. Mr Rhodes James (North East Cambridgeshire, L): Is it Mr Luce's duty to preserve the

heritage rather than leaving it reliant on tourism or the good sense of the trustees? Mr Luce emphasized the importance of the heritage.

He said that the important national acquisition of a Constable painting through the system of donated works of art in lieu of taxes. That painting would be on view from this morning at the National Gallery.

Mr Mark Fisher, Opposition spokesman on the arts, said that the charges which would commence at the Natural History Museum on Wednesday were not, as Mr Luce implied, to develop these public services but to protect them because the Government was not giving adequate resources for them.

The trustees expected a 40 per cent drop in attendance and this represented one million people next year.

That is the scale of the Government's neglect. Mr Luce: He is talking nonsense. It is well known from past evidence that for the first few months after charges start there is a drop which then picks up once people get used to the idea of paying.

To suggest that the Government was not increasing resources to museums and galleries was nonsense.

Cash for homes insulation to rise by 41%

Cash for schemes for insulating homes was being increased by 41 per cent - to about £45 million during the next financial year, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, announced during Commons questions.

Mr David Knox (Staffordshire, Mordun, C) said that there would also be an increase of a third in grants to the neighbourhood organizations that co-ordinated the insulation work of local community groups - to £391,000.

Mr Walker hoped that a further 200,000 homes - mainly those of people in low-income groups - would be insulated over the next year, bringing the total completed under the schemes to 500,000.

Insulation schemes would employ 8,000 young people. Mr Knox wanted to know what savings these improvements would effect.

Mr Walker said that he could not tell, because of the diversity of the housing concerned. However, in the 300,000 homes that the schemes had already tackled, there had been substantial improvements, not only in savings to families living in them, but in comfort as well.

It was the combination of those schemes, together with job creation, that made these schemes so attractive.

Mr Malcolm Bruce (Gordon, L) charged that the Government was still a long way short of the 20 per cent savings that the Department of Energy and the EEC had promised.

Mr Walker: What Mr Walker was going to do to plug the gap? Mr Walker: I would like to hear Conservative cheers, that the present scheme was a 3,000 per cent improvement on Lib-Lab government.

Mr Edward Rowlands, an Opposition spokesman on energy, said that there was a reduction and removal of grants to millions of households that did not have adequate insulation. Cuts would affect availability of the service.

Mr Walker replied that it would be nice if, occasionally, Labour would pay tribute, instead of making, when there was a dramatic improvement. Mr Rowlands should look at the record of the last Government (Conservative cheers).

Mr Walker said that the Secretary of State for Social Services (Mr Norman Fowler) had personally pursued a big campaign with regional hospital boards to see that huge savings could be achieved. The Secretary of State for Education and Science (Mr Kenneth Baker) and Secretary of State for Defence (Mr George Younger) were doing similarly.

These were three very big areas of energy usage, where considerable improvements could be achieved.

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Mr Peter Hardy (Westworth, Lab) contended that, even with the improvements that Mr Walker had announced, Britain's position in home insulation would still be the worst in Western Europe, by far.

Mr Walker said, again to Conservative cheers, that the position had got worse and worse under the last Labour Government and better under this one.

Mr Peter East (Brewish, C) wanted to know what discussions the energy department might have had to see that organizations such as the National Health Service did more to cut public spending by improving energy efficiency.

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COMMENTARY

Geoffrey Smith

The two Davids are once again singing different tunes, but this time it is success that has taken them unawares. Mr Steel responded to the Gallup poll putting the Alliance ahead of Labour by telling the Scottish Liberals last Friday that an overall majority for the Alliance was now possible.

That was in line with what Mr Roy Jenkins had been saying the day before. But Dr Owen stuck to a decidedly more cautious line when he was interviewed in this week's *Sunday Telegraph*. "For us to win outright", he acknowledged, "Mrs Thatcher would have had to have so fooled up the election date as to be beyond belief."

This is essentially a difference of tactics, and is not to be compared with last September's fracas over defence between Liberals and Social Democrats. But it is not the first time that the Alliance leaders have disagreed over how to present their electoral objectives.

Voting to limit size of majority

Towards the end of the last general election campaign Dr Owen was urging people to vote for the Alliance so as to limit the size of Mrs Thatcher's inevitable majority. That was at a time when Mr Steel and other Alliance leaders were still talking about the possibility of winning power.

I was convinced that Dr Owen was right then. He sounded as if he was living in the same world as the electorate. But he is right in the changed conditions of today.

The principal argument for the Alliance setting its sights on an outright victory is that that simplifies its appeal to the electorate. Talk of holding the balance in a hung Parliament sounds convoluted. Nobody can be sure what would then happen, and the British political culture favours clear results and strong governments.

Any party that expresses its confidence in an overall majority while it is a poor third in the opinion polls is inviting ridicule. But once it is running second in the polls would the claim not seem credible? Might a party which then failed to make the claim not seem a trifle timid?

Not necessarily. The Alliance will need to do much more than get its nose just in front of Labour in an occasional poll before many people will take seriously its chances of having a majority of seats in the next House of Commons.

As its support is spread more evenly across the country than that of other parties, it would actually have to win a higher proportion of votes than they would have to have a majority of seats.

But there is another reason why I think the Alliance would still be wise to be careful. Once it was considered a possible government it would be judged by more exacting standards.

It is attracting support at the moment as a healthy influence rather than a potential government. A Marplan survey published last week by *The Guardian* and Channel 4's *A Week in Politics* put the Alliance equal with Labour and only four points behind the Conservatives in voting intentions. But on none of the issues raised - unemployment, education, health, defence and housing - did Alliance policies command most confidence.

Presenting an elusive target

That does not matter so long as nobody is seriously supposing that the Alliance will be given the chance to put them into practice. This explains why it presents such an elusive target to its opponents: exposing its weaknesses on policy is not so much an exercise as it is a policy that does not seem relevant in the same way that other parties are.

Once that was changed the Alliance would be subjected to a much more searching examination, both on the full range of policies and on the depth of experience, parliamentary let alone governmental, that it has at its disposal. Quite a number of voters might be frightened off voting Alliance if they thought they might be putting it into power on its own.

The Alliance must undergo this test some time if its fortunes continue to advance. But there is not much point in inviting it before an Alliance government seems a serious proposition.

Agreement on coal production

There was cross-party agreement about the improved productivity record of British coalmining workers when the issue was raised during Question Time in the Commons.

Mr Spencer Batiste (Elmet, C) said that British Coal's constantly improving productivity vindicated the Government's investment policy. The miners' attitude in accepting responsible working practices justified that investment.

Mr Allen McKay (Barnsley West and Penistone, Lab) reminded MPs that productivity could be calculated in a number of ways such as loss of man-power. The coal industry had lost 70,000 men.

If the Government did not keep track of coal imports, that increase in productivity and increased shift time could lead to colliery closures.

Mr Alan Cloyd (Cynon Valley, Lab) referred to the success of the Margam Colliery investment in South Wales.

It would save £44 million on imports of coking coal and another £15 million in domestic coal.

Mr David Hunt, Under-Secretary of State for Energy, said that increased coal mining productivity was a remarkable tribute to the achievements of the men.

People willing to pay museum charges, Luce assures House

ARTS

Challenged in the Commons over the effects of museum charges on attendances, Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, insisted that people were willing to pay. The numbers visiting national museums and galleries was rising all the time, he said.

Mr Frank Haynes (Ashfield, Lab) had asserted that charges were driving people away. Even children were having to pay a £1 museum charge. The government was not doing very well, Mr Luce said: If he thinks we are not doing well by doubling the number of museums in the past 15 years, he should think again.

It was right that charging should be a matter for the trustees. Mr Luce said: If he thinks we are not doing well by doubling the number of museums in the past 15 years, he should think again.

If they judged that by raising charges they would improve facilities with the increased resources and so attract greater public interest, that was their choice.

Mr Robert Rhodes James (Cambridge, C) said it was in the interests of the major university museums in England, Scotland and Wales, including the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, were fin-

anced or semi-financed by the University Grants Committee budget so that visitors had to be turned away every year because the museums could not open as often as they wished to.

Mr Luce should discuss this with the Secretary of State for Education and Science (Mr Kenneth Baker).

Mr Luce said that this was principally a matter for Mr Baker. A lot of important museums were attached to the linking of these museums with the universities.

He said later that most other countries, whatever the support system for the arts, had a system of charging for museums and galleries.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) did not suppose that any Civil Service trade union favoured charges.

Mr Luce was being disingenuous in saying this was a matter for the trustees because trustees charged only because of the low government grants to museums.

The National History Museum was starting to have charges and estimated that these would reduce attendances by 40 per cent.

"Where is the social and economic sense? This is symptomatic of the Government's policy of direct control over mentalities towards museums and other things."

Mr Luce said that the resources



Mr Rhodes James: Defence of universities.

made available to national museums and galleries had risen by 13 per cent in real terms since 1979-80, thousands, if not millions, were prepared to visit museums, including the many independent museums, where there were charges.

They also went to country houses and subsidised theatres where charges were made.

Mr Rhodes James (North East Cambridgeshire, L): Is it Mr Luce's duty to preserve the

heritage rather than leaving it reliant on tourism or the good sense of the trustees? Mr Luce emphasized the importance of the heritage.

He said that the important national acquisition of a Constable painting through the system of donated works of art in lieu of taxes. That painting would be on view from this morning at the National Gallery.

Mr Mark Fisher, Opposition spokesman on the arts, said that the charges which would commence at the Natural History Museum on Wednesday were not, as Mr Luce implied, to develop these public services but to protect them because the Government was not giving adequate resources for them.

The trustees expected a 40 per cent drop in attendance and this represented one million people next year.

That is the scale of the Government's neglect. Mr Luce: He is talking nonsense. It is well known from past evidence that for the first few months after charges start there is a drop which then picks up once people get used to the idea of paying.

To suggest that the Government was not increasing resources to museums and galleries was nonsense.

Mr Luce said that the resources

Privately owned flats

Bill aimed at bad landlords, says Patten

RENTS

adopted, should go a long way to meeting the Nuge committee's recommendation.

This Government had done more to promote housing rights than any other in post-war years.

The Bill provided a framework for the orderly management of flats in private ownership. All residents, whether long leaseholders or renting tenants had a right to expect that their homes were properly managed.

Mr John Fraser, an Opposition spokesman on environment, said that the Bill should go further along the road of leasehold reform.

The Nuge committee had pushed its terms of reference to the limit, and he congratulated it on doing so. It set out to repair the gross abuses which some unscrupulous landlords engaged in.

"There is a recognition that the contractual bundle of rights and obligations which constitute a lease often turn out to be defective, not because they are badly drafted, but often because of the passage of time and in other cases because of the habit of landlords to dictate a lease which contains the minimum

obligations on the part of the landlord and the maximum on the tenant."

It was not uncommon to find that the landlord had no obligation of repair, although a tenant had an obligation to contribute to service charges.

Many leases were regarded as defective by building societies because of inadequate arrangements for insurance. They often did not provide for full replacement value: the range of risks was not indexed-linked.

There was a good practice by landlords in forming management companies. There should be no profit on management, although one had to make a reasonable charge. There were cases where landlords formed management companies, but then lost interest and the companies collapsed to the detriment of tenants.

The Bill was an essential addition to the law of landlord and tenant. It addressed the imbalance often existing between landlord and tenant.

"It is a fine Bill, a remarkable compromise" and gave private tenants the option to buy blocks of flats, irrespective of the lease.

"Clause 4 of the Bill is much the same as Clause 4 of the Labour Party constitution because it effects social ownership of property in the hands of tenants. We are glad that the Government has come round to endorsing Clause 4 of the Labour Party constitution" (laughter).

The Bill was also remarkable in being a denial of the supremacy of private landlordism which in other areas seemed essential to the Tory Party.

"We believe that the management of rented premises is best carried out by responsible and accountable landlords, and properly by the tenants themselves."

Part III of the Bill should be available to all tenants.

Part III provided for tenants of flats let wholly or mainly on long leases, to apply for a court order to acquire the landlord's interest compulsorily where the landlord has failed to discharge his obligations, and the appointment of a manager would not be an adequate remedy or where a manager had been appointed for at least three years.

Part IV of the Bill providing for a court to vary the terms of a long lease of a flat in certain circumstances, was important because leases were sometimes defective or had been overtaken by progress.

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Jobless to tackle inner city crime

By Peter Davenport

The number of places on the Community Programme to fight rising crime in the inner cities is to be doubled.

Ministers intend to increase the numbers of jobs from 6,000 to 12,000 within a year in areas of high unemployment and urban decay.

Although there will be no extra cash available for the programme, as ministers believe the £1 billion allocated is sufficient, efforts are being made to make sure the areas most in need receive the greatest benefits.

The new policy will mean a switch of resources away from the more affluent areas, such as London and the South-east, to unemployment black spots.

The Government hopes to overcome the ideological refusal of extreme left-wing Labour authorities to become involved in inner city improvement Councils such as Liverpool and the inner London boroughs of Islington, Southwark, Newham, Waltham Forest, Tower Hamlets and Hackney who all refused to participate.

It means that the Govern-

ment has to find other sponsors to run the programmes, usually voluntary organizations.

Although the scheme is not linked with the latest spate of attacks on the elderly, which has worried ministers anxious to maintain the "law and order" reputation of the Conservative Party, it is seen as a way of helping Projects favoured include improving home security for the elderly.

The Community Programme has 245,000 places for the long-term unemployed who earn, on average, £57 a week.

Next year the number of places on the programme will be cut by 9 per cent in the South-east and by 3.5 per cent in London. The full allocations are:

London	31,000;
South-east	13,000;
London	17,000;
South-west	15,000;
West Midlands	28,000;
East Midlands	19,000;
Yorkshire and Humberside	28,500;
North-west	38,500;
The northern region (the North-east and Cumbria)	29,000;
Wales	21,000.

North-east regeneration: 2

Small firms bring jobs for the future

In the second of two articles on how the North-east is tackling its unemployment crisis, Ronald Faux, Employment Affairs Correspondent, meets some of the new businessmen who are helping to create fresh industries in the wake of pit closures and mounting unemployment among young people.

Barry Best is the kind of man they describe in the North-east as "canny". He has the build of a rugby forward, a frank pride in what he has achieved, and a determination for what must be possible in future.

The company he runs with his brother Malcolm is Tolag precision engineering.

He grinned when asked whether Tolag suggested a continental interest in the company. "Away man! Tall Oaks from Little Acorns Grow - Tolag", he said.

The company specializes in high volume precision engineering and, on the top floor, beside a battery of high-tech machinery worth £2 million, are the shining entrails of guided missiles, rocket exhausts, tank wheels and a tall pile of computer bits.

The company has an order-book worth £2 million that should double by the end of this year and Mr Best expects the £5 million turnover to increase fivefold in two years.

He started work with the coal board as a mining trainee and became assistant works manager at one of the engineering shops just as the coal industry started to contract. He moved into computers and then set up Tolag with his brother.

It has not been easy to convince the business world that the venture is a winner.

But now Tolag is British Coal Enterprise's biggest investment. The company employs fewer than 20 which is a drop in the Tyne compared with the traditional, labour intensive industries.

When Gregson's Pipeworks shut down two years ago, five small companies were set up by former employees, among them Induction Bendine Ser-

vices at Newton Aycliffe.

David Arbor and Roy Kingan, both former Gregson engineers, amassed enough capital to attract regional grants, selective assistance, soft loans from British Coal Enterprise and hard loans from the bank to start business. They had rates holidays from the two local authorities and a rent holiday from the local development corporation.

They now employ two other workers and are fighting hard for contracts to bend pipes to any shape industry requires.

"We have customers all over the place and reckon the prospects are good because there are only two other places in Britain that do this work commercially", Mr Arbor said. Turnover this year was "doing nicely" at around £250,000.

It was because they were worried about the future for their two sons that Arthur Sayers and John Tarleton gave up secure jobs with a kitchen equipment manufacturer to start their own business.

"We eventually decided to buy out a local company that made badminton rackets.

"Racket sports were starting to boom, so we decided to give it a go although the bank manager thought we were crackers", Mr Tarleton said.

The business started in a garage and moved to a factory at Shildon and within 18 months has become the only British company manufacturing a full range of badminton, squash and tennis rackets.

The pair have taken over a sports clothing firm.

Norland Sports now employs 20, and has a turnover of £250,000.

Concluded

imposition of the death sentence, the statement says.

Far from giving the public better protection, we could thereby end up placing them in greater danger."

Since abolition, cases in which people convicted of murder have had their convictions quashed have raised society's awareness of the risk of mistaken conviction, the statement says.

"The death penalty would hinder rather than help the fight against terrorism." Terrorists would have a strong motive for taking hostages and threatening to kill them in the stages leading up to an execution.

Reprisals would come after executions and would create a new generation of martyrs, informants would be more reluctant to help the police.

The six organizations which issued the statement were the Prison Governors' branch of the Society of Civil and Public Servants; the Association of Chief Officers of Probation; the National Association of Probation Officers; the National Association for the Care of Prisoners; the Association of Officers; the Prison Reform Trust and the Howard League for Penal Reform.

Rabies confirmed in boy bitten by dog

By Craig Seton

Three trainloads of school-children carrying gas-mask boxes and battered suitcases became "evacuees" yesterday.

The children, aged from 10 to 12, who attend Peter's Hill Primary School, Ambicote, Stourbridge, West Midlands, were 1940s-style clothing for a trip to the Cosford Aerospace Museum, near Shrewsbury, to see wartime aircraft.

Mrs. Diana Sessry, a teacher, said: "We thought it would be an idea to show them what children went through in 1939".

(Photograph: Philip Dunn).

(Photograph: Philip Dunn).

By Craig Seton

A boy aged eight who is on a life support system in a Birmingham hospital has rabies, tests confirmed yesterday.

Indrdeep Singh Hayre, of Handsworth, Birmingham, is in a critical condition at the East Birmingham Hospital.

The boy was admitted two weeks ago showing the classic symptoms of rabies, including fear of water.

Analysis of his blood at the Public Health Laboratory in Colindale, north London, has now confirmed that he has the disease.

It is thought he became infected when he was bitten by a dog while on holiday in India at Christmas.

It is understood that he was not treated after he was bitten and was taken to hospital only when he became ill in England.

Nineteen people, including his family, three school friends and doctors and nurses have been immunized against the disease.

Dr Surinder Bakhshi, Birmingham's medical officer for environmental health, said yesterday that it was rare for the disease to be transmitted between humans and there was no danger to the public.

Dr Bakhshi said antibodies to rabies had appeared in three

The last known case of rabies in Britain was that of a woman, aged 45, in Portsmouth last August. She had been bitten by a dog in Zambia and died.

Mr Bottomley said that it was necessary to renew about 5 per cent of the motorway network every year to keep it in good condition.

The department is seeking to eliminate a backlog of maintenance work by 1992.

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Thatcher in Moscow

Sakharov returns for private meeting on Soviet human rights

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Dr Andrei Sakharov, the leading Soviet dissident and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, returned to his Moscow home yesterday in anticipation of a private meeting he is expected to have with Mrs Thatcher to discuss the Soviet human rights situation, arms control and the Gorbachev reform programme.

The physicist and his wife, Mrs Yelena Bonner, returned on the overnight train from the Volga city of Gorky, where they were living in lonely exile until their release in December on the orders of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev.

They had been back to Gorky for 10 days to settle domestic affairs and complete documentation work on a

family car. British government sources dismissed as "nonsense" a weekend press report in London that Dr Sakharov, the father of the Soviet H-bomb, was unwilling to meet Mrs Thatcher, but out of deference to the Kremlin refused to say in advance where or when the meeting would take place.

Mrs Thatcher told reporters at an embassy reception for the British community in Moscow that she would make no comment in advance about her planned meetings with dissidents, which are being treated as private. Western diplomats could not recall any other world leader having such an extensive range of such meetings on previous

Moscow visits. Soviet officials have made it known that the Kremlin has no objection in principle to the scheduled meetings, but private annoyance has been voiced about the decision to invite Mr Iosif Begun, his wife Inna, and other prominent Jewish refuseniks to a special breakfast in the British Embassy tomorrow.

The Soviet authorities make a clear distinction between Dr Sakharov, who was invited on Mr Gorbachev's instructions to a Kremlin-financed international peace forum last month, and Jewish dissidents like the Beguns, whose supporters have been involved in Moscow demonstrations broken up by the KGB.

Visit secures cultural bonus

From Robin Oakley, Moscow

Mrs Thatcher and Mr Gorbachev were putting the finishing touches yesterday to a memorandum of understanding on greatly expanded cultural exchanges between Britain and the Soviet Union.

The package will cover everything from touring pop groups, jazz bands, and orchestras, to a wider transfer of television programmes and art exhibitions. In addition there is to be a large increase in the number of British and Russian student exchanges.

The new accord is considered to be part of their recognition of Mr Gorbachev's policy of glasnost.

Cultural contacts have been

increasing lately. Jazz trumpeter, Kenny Ball, who scored a pop-chart success with his recording of *Midnight In Moscow*, recently toured the USSR to perform more than 50 concerts. So has singer Iris Williams.

The pop group UB40 played to a stadium audience of more than 70,000 in Moscow.

Now there are plans for further tours by pop stars including Genesis, Julian Lennon, and U2, with a major pop concert planned in Moscow in October or November.

The Royal Ballet is due in the Soviet capital on June 1 to open at the Bolshoi before it is closed for repairs. The National Theatre Company intend

to tour next May with three Peter Hall productions, *Cymbeline*, *Pericles*, and *A Winter's Tale*.

Under the new cultural package it is hoped that tours will be arranged for the English National Opera, Sadler's Wells Ballet, and the Ballet Rambert.

In return, the Georgian State Dance Company is to tour 16 British cities in May, after performing at the London Palladium. Later in the year the 350-strong Khrov Opera will tour Britain and the Bolshoi Academy, made up mostly of youngsters aged 16 to 18, will also tour Britain in July and August.

Bible belt furore hits Falwell

From Charles Bremner, New York

In the latest twist to America's war of the television evangelists, the Rev Jerry Falwell, founder of the Moral Majority movement, has been accused of spending only a tiny part of more than \$3 million (about \$1.9 million) he raised for famine relief.

The charge was published by the weekly *US News and World Report* amid continued slanging matches between the millionaire television preachers, whose private feud went public last week when the Rev Jim Bakker was forced to quit his television ministry after a sex scandal.

Mr Falwell, whose ministry takes in about \$100 million a year, has assumed control of Mr Bakker's Praise The Lord (PTL) group, which brings in \$170 million annually.

The weekly said Mr Falwell raised \$3.2 million in 1985-86 for famine relief in Sudan. Only \$300,000 was spent, however, and most of that to send 15 college students there.

Mr Falwell, aged 52, has dismissed the allegations as ridiculous. His spokesman said the organization had been "committed to a 10-year famine relief project in the Sudan that had been cut short after a year because of political turmoil".

On Sunday, Mr Falwell raised the possibility of legal implications over the scandal at the PTL organization - whose initials have been adapted by headline writers to stand for Pass The Loot.

"When you get to paying extortion money, that's real close to the edge, especially if it's not your money," he said.

Mr Bakker has admitted to paying about \$115,000 "hush money" to Miss Jessica Hahn, aged 27, a New York church secretary with whom he had a "brief sexual encounter" in 1980.

Mr Falwell, in a reflection on the embarrassment the



Mr Swaggart telling a Hollywood evangelistic crusade that Mr Bakker should accept full responsibility for his sins.

Bakker affair has created for the powerful evangelical ministries, added: "There are people today just rejoicing in this scandal, but sin is not something new that was invented with Jim Bakker."

Meanwhile, the man whom Mr Bakker accused of running a "diabolical plot" to take over his ministry, Mr Jimmy Swaggart, unleashed a fresh barrage of brimstone at the weekend, accusing Mr Bakker of bringing the church into disrepute.

"David is the perfect example," he said. "He never blamed it on Bathsheba. He didn't blame it on a hot sultry warm night. He just said 'Lord, it's my fault. I have

sinned.' Jim Bakker, as I see it, has not done that yet."

Mr Bakker, from his palatial home in California where he went into retreat with his wife, Tammy Faye, gave a fuller account of what he portrays as his seduction by a wily young woman of the world. "Miss Hahn knew all the tricks of the trade," he said.

His alleged temptress, meanwhile, hid back from the Long Island home where she has been under siege by reporters and television crews. Through her lawyer she said she had been given a glass of drugged wine by Mr Bakker's associates in the hotel where the encounter took place.

WORLD SUMMARY

Speculation over minister's death

Cape Town - The apparent suicide of Mr John Wiley, the South African Minister of the Environment who was found shot in the head at his home near here on Sunday, remained the subject of intense speculation in political and business circles yesterday (*Our Correspondent writes*).

The affair has deepened with the fact that a close friend of Mr Wiley, Mr David Allen, aged 37, apparently took his own life last month before he had been about to appear in court on undisclosed charges.

Mr Wiley's death is another electoral setback for the National Party in the run-up to the May whites-only elections, as his Simonsvlei seat is now in danger. It coincided with the surprise last-minute withdrawal from the electoral race, for personal reasons, of Mr Louis Nel, the former Deputy Minister of Information.

Censor threat

Nairobi - Kenya's ruling Kenya African National Union has threatened to censor all reports by foreign correspondents (African Correspondent writes).

Mr Laban Kilele, the party's organizing secretary, said it had lost patience with foreign journalists and cited allegations of human rights abuses in Kenya and reports about the high incidence of AIDS among Kenyans as examples of recent objectionable stories. More than 100 correspondents are based in Nairobi.

Princess netted

Lilongwe (AP) - Workers at a Malawi netting factory yesterday presented Prince Charles with a see-through, crocheted skirt and blouse for the Princess of Wales.

The Prince is visiting Malawi in his capacity as a director of the Commonwealth Development Corporation, which has invested \$1.4 million in the netting factory.

At a state banquet on Sunday night, President Banda spoke of the warm relations between his nation and its former colonial master, Britain.

Shamir clash avoided

Jerusalem - Mr David Levy, the Israeli Housing Minister, decided not to force an open breach in proceedings by challenging Mr Yitzhak Shamir for the leadership of the divided Herut Party at its annual conference (Ian Murray writes).

He was elected to the new post of deputy chairman with the support of 55 per cent of delegates. The US Embassy in Tel Aviv has welcomed as "a helpful step" the personal decision of Colonel Avram Sella - indicted in the US for his part in recruiting the convicted spy, Jonathan Pollard - to resign from the command of Israel's Tel Nof air base.

Koreans may talk

Tokyo (Reuters) - Mr Li Guo Mo, the North Korean Prime Minister, yesterday agreed to a proposal from Seoul for talks between him and his South Korean counterpart and suggested a preparatory meeting on April 23 at ministerial level.

The Korean Central News Agency, monitored here, said Mr Li suggested holding the first round of preparatory talks on the northern side of the border village of Panmunjom.

10 lost in sinking

Madrid (Reuters) - Rescuers were yesterday forced to abandon a search for 10 missing seamen from a Spanish trawler which sank 200 miles north-west of the Canary Islands, a Spanish radio station said.

It said a French ship gave up a rescue operation after picking up two survivors of the trawler, *Calpe Quintanas*, and spotting nine bodies floating in life jackets. The trawler was believed to have had a crew of 12.

Brunei looks to pact

Kuala Lumpur (Reuters) - Brunei has shown interest in joining the Five-Power Defence Agreement linking Britain, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand, Mr George Younger, the Defence Secretary, said yesterday. Speaking during a visit to Malaysia, he said that Britain would give its full support for Brunei's inclusion.

Reagan tries to avert Highways Bill defeat

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan summoned key Republican members of Congress to the Oval Office and bombarded others with telephone calls yesterday in a fight to prevent a politically disastrous defeat this week over an \$88 billion (£55 billion) Highways Bill. He is giving a blunt warning that his prestige is at stake.

On Friday he rejected appeals from some of his closest Republican allies on Capitol Hill and signed a veto of the Bill, which would expand commuter train systems and provide for road building in

every region of the country. It is an immensely popular measure, but Mr Reagan says the country cannot afford such an enormously expensive measure. However he has pledged to sign a trimmed down version if Congress can get it to him within a month.

The President faces almost certain defeat when the House of Representatives votes today on whether to override the veto, which requires a two-thirds majority in both Houses. The Senate will vote later in the week. The outcome is expected to be close.

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ZEEBRUGGE DISASTER Public Inquiry

The Formal Investigation into the loss of the "Herald of Free Enterprise" will open at 10.30 am on Monday 27 April 1987 in Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1 before the Hon. Mr Justice Sheen. A preliminary meeting will be held, before Mr Justice Sheen, at 10.30 am on Friday 3 April 1987 in Court 45, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2.

Passengers travelling on the ship's last voyage from Zeebrugge who have not already been contacted by the Inspectors undertaking the Preliminary Inquiry and who believe they have information about the loss of the vessel, are invited to write as soon as possible, with details, to the Inspectors, Department of Transport (Marine Directorate), c/o HM Customs and Excise, 3rd Floor, Southern House, Lord Warden's Square, DOVER, Kent CT17 9DJ.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

Angry protests mark start of Spain's cooking oil trial

From Richard Wigg Madrid

Angry and distressing protests by the relatives of hundreds who died from a nervous disorder after eating food cooked in adulterated oil yesterday marked the beginning of the trial here of 38 people, expected to last at least five months and involve more than 2,000 witnesses.

Even though the proceedings got under way quietly in the courtroom, the relatives of some of the 500-plus alleged victims protested "this is not justice, they are our dead", when they were refused entry to the trial. They had come from all over the country and had been queuing since the early morning. The police were only allowing in those who had been issued with passes by the victims' organisations.

The pent-up emotions among the victims' relatives proved too much, however, and they attempted to stone the accused returning from a lunch break before the afternoon session began.

Police on horseback had to charge the demonstrators who threw beer and Coca Cola cans filled with stones, hitting one of the defence lawyers.

When the session finally got started the defence lawyers protested that their security was not being ensured.

The courtroom, one of the former pavilions of the Madrid Trade Fair, refurbished for the trial at a cost of £2 million, resembles a small concert hall. The 38 accused, one a woman, were all seated facing the judges. They were protected by a bullet-proof glass screen behind them.

One hour after the trial began before Judge José Jiménez Alfaro and two magistrates, the victims' relatives were still coming in slowly. One woman in her sixties, whose husband died, fainted when she finally got into the courtroom and had to be consoled by a weeping daughter.

"Justice and good health," shouted the crowds outside. Some carried banners almost to the courtroom doors declaring: "We demand punishment and investigation."

Lawyers defending the accused have said they will concentrate their defence on the failure of medical science to prove an exact link between



A girl wearing a leg brace waiting outside the Madrid court where 38 people are being tried for importing and distributing contaminated cooking oil, which led to 583 deaths.

consumption of the oil and the fatal disease.

No public official has yet been charged in connection with the tragedy.

Some of the onlookers at yesterday's hearing also expressed doubts about the oil. Two Spanish experts, one of whom is to conduct experi-

— imported solely fit for industrial uses — was being chemically treated for human consumption by Madrid oil merchants who were his customers.

He could give no explanation why his firm had labelled as "Vegetable Oil" consignments he sold in 1981 to the

public health, which resulted in 583 deaths and the illnesses of more than 24,000 others who consumed part of the more than 600 metric tonnes of imported industrial oil.

The four also face fraud charges, according to the prosecution, arising from their economic motivation to profit from selling cheap industrial oil as the higher-priced cooking oil.

Senior Bengoechea frequently claimed he could not remember the details of events six years ago when questioned by Señor Eduardo Fungarino, the chief public prosecutor.

Tackled by the prosecutor, the Basque industrialist gave no explanation why his suspicions were never aroused by the large quantities of oil the Ferrero brothers were buying from him, or when he visited their plant in a Madrid suburb and saw none of the installations of a steel plant but only a single presser for plastics.

Señor Bengoechea, after lunch, refused to answer any questions put to him by counsel for the victims.

ments during the trial, believe pesticides are to blame for the deaths of those who died after eating summer salads.

At yesterday's hearing, Señor Juan Manuel Bengoechea, a 46-year-old San Sebastián industrialist and one of the principal accused, denied that he had known the rape seed oil

oil merchants, now on trial with him.

Señor Bengoechea and his brother, Fernando, ran the San Sebastián oil importing firm Rapasa. Ramón and Elías Ferrero ran the Madrid oil refining and distributing company Raelca. The four are accused of crimes against

Pilgrimage to Chile

Pope enters a cauldron of rising unrest

From Roger Boyes, Rome



The Pope arrives tomorrow in President Pinochet's Chile where the opposition is close to boiling point, and where the Catholic clergy is at odds about how to change the authoritarian regime.

It is one of the Pope's most politically sensitive pilgrimages, a journey, in the words of a Vatican official, "to the very edge of the volcano".

The Pope will meet General Pinochet on Thursday and later he will travel on to Argentina, his first visit since the Falklands conflict, and then to Uruguay.

General Pinochet is said to be a practising Catholic and often dresses up his anti-communist views as crusading Catholicism. But the Pope has been under strong pressure from Italian politicians, human rights organisations and Chilean exiles — including the widow of the murdered leader Salvador Allende — to make his pilgrimage into a battle for democratic change.

The Pope who has able advisors, especially on South America — where 45 per cent of the world's Catholics live — did not really need this kind of lobbying. At least two of his

homilies in Chile will be open appeals to the authorities to respect basic liberties.

The problems though are manifold. First, the Pope recognises that General Pinochet is a profoundly unpopular leader and that the President will use the April visit to bolster his authority. Yet he cannot openly defy the General. Second, the democratic opposition will be staging demonstrations, perhaps, using open-air masses to rally resistance and, if the past months are anything to go by, they will be brutally quashed.

Both the Primate of Chile, the Archbishop of Santiago, Cardinal Juan Francisco Fresno, and the organizer of the trip, Bishop Cox, have emphasized the pastoral nature of the visit, and have called on opposition leaders to be restrained.

As the Pope travels the world it is possible to detect a disturbing pattern, a relationship between papal visits and political instability. In certain Catholic countries, sapped by debt, disillusioned by a weakening authoritarian government, a visit by the Pope sometimes tips dissent into

The "popular church" has been gaining ground and there has been a noticeable lessening of authority in the Chilean church leadership. This is compounded by a weakening of Catholic faith amongst the Chilean people. This is probably the most disturbing feature for the Pope.

According to a report prepared by the Jesuits, less than a quarter of Chileans go regularly to Mass, and only 12 per cent go to Confession (compared to 30 per cent in 1980). Thirty years ago about 95 per cent of Chileans regarded themselves as Catholics. Now only nine million of the 12 million Chileans adhere to Roman Catholicism.

The numbers of new priests are dropping rapidly and Chile is having to stock up with foreign clergy — some of whom become politically active. French priests were expelled after an assassination attempt last year on General Pinochet and other foreign priests have been harassed and beaten by secret police. The Pope disapproves of these politically committed churchmen, but clearly cannot let their cases go by default. A difficult trip.

There is a wide gap opening up in the Chilean clergy between priests who regard themselves as the "popular church" and who work together with the opposition, and on the other hand those loyal to Vatican teachings who fear that overt political involvement will lead to disaster.

Aid boost expected after Somalia visit

Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, travels to Somalia next week during a visit to the Horn of Africa. In the second of two articles Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent, suggests that the visit might lead to closer relations.

The Government is being urged to upgrade Britain's links with Somalia, whose northern territory, the former British protectorate of Somaliland, was known as "the Cinderella of the British Empire".

Calls for President Siad Barre to be invited to Britain, and for the British Council offices to be reopened, have come from academics and Conservative MPs.

They believe that a visit Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, is to make between April 12-14 should be used to show that Anglo-Somali relations have at last reached room temperature.

The gestures would be in sharp and deliberate contrast

Britain and the Horn of Africa Part 2

to the cold formality that is likely to dominate her visit to Ethiopia two days earlier. They would also be used to effect Somalia's displeasure at being visited after, rather than before, its hostile neighbour in the Horn of Africa.

Britain has been slow to regain enthusiasm for Somalia despite President Barre's decision to expel 6,000 Soviet troops in 1977. Although he visited Britain the following year, aid from Britain and the West generally arrived far more slowly than he had hoped at a time when the Ogaden war with Soviet-backed Ethiopia threatened his Government's survival. It has gradually increased, and Britain's 1986-87 contribution will be at least \$6.6 million.

After Princess Anne's visit to Somalia in 1982 in her capacity as president of the Save the Children Fund there was a noticeable warming in

relations. Some MPs now think it should be symbolized by inviting President Barre to lunch with the Queen.

Shadows of the Empire have also influenced the MPs' anxiety to make up to Somalia. Britain's almost legendary meanness from 1887, when the protectorate was established to exclude the French and ensure regular supplies of Somali mutton for troops in Aden, has left some with an uneasy conscience. The former protectorate was reunited with the former Italian colony of Somalia in 1969 to create modern Somalia.

With an encyclopaedic knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of leading figures in the region, President Barre is fond of talking late into the night with important visitors.

Under a mango tree in the small house, a British female minister and an African chief statesman may well decide to let post-colonial and post-Soviet hyposes be hyposes.

The scenario is not as improbable it sounds, indeed Mrs Chalker's advisers have told her to expect it.

President Barre: aware of the need to prepare a successor.

Mrs Chalker seems most likely to reflect the new warmth with increased aid, but has been considering the suggestions.

Academics have told her that Somalia is not so much a one-party as a one-man state, because of President Barre's dominant personality. Although autocratic he is seen as a popular and able leader. But after 18 years at the helm, and a serious car accident last May, he is said to be aware of the need to prepare a successor.

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President Barre: aware of the need to prepare a successor.

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Tribesmen celebrate as Pakistani fighters shoot down Afghan jet

From Michael Hamlyn, Parachinar, Pakistan-Afghan border

In a brief but spectacular dogfight, watched by thousands of Afghan Mujahidin guerrillas and Pakistani tribesmen, two F-14 fighters of the Pakistan Air Force intercepted an intruding Sukhoi 22 ground-attack jet from Afghanistan yesterday and shot it down.

While the Sukhoi plunged nose-first belching bright orange flames and thick black smoke the two F-14s, accompanied by a Mirage jet, streaked off back to their base.

When the falling plane disappeared behind the snow-covered fringes of hills that mark the border overlooking this town, the rejoicing inhabitants let fly a huge volley of gun fire to celebrate. Craggy bearded men with turbans embraced their neighbours and grinned from ear to ear with pleasure at the sight of the oily black smoke still hanging heavily in the sky.

On several occasions in the past week Sukhoi jets from Afghanistan have tripped over

the ridge of hills - called the White Hills in this peninsula of Pakistan jutting into Afghan territory - and have strafed Pakistani villages and small towns, killing as many as 200 people.

Newspapers, politicians, notably the opposition leader, Miss Benazir Bhutto, and the public have been bitterly asking why the well-equipped and trained Pakistan Air Force has not been able to intercept these raiders and protect the border area. Yesterday's dogfight will have done much to restore the force's waning prestige.

"That will put an end to their raids on our people," said one jubilant Pathan yesterday in Parachinar, "at least for a couple of months."

He added thoughtfully: "Perhaps the Americans will let us have the F-15 fighter which is even better, now they see how well we use what we have got."

The cross-border incursions by the Afghan planes have in fact stepped up pressure for the acquisition of an airborne early warning and control system (Awacs) which will enable the Pakistanis to look over the range of hills and see the Afghans coming instead of either having to wait until they arrive and start bombing or having to rely on intensive air patrolling by the F-14s.

The acquisition of Awacs was recognized by Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, as an operational necessity for the Pakistanis during his visit to Islamabad late last year.

It would, however, have an undoubted impact on relations with the Indians across the other border, who feel understandably nervous about Pakistan acquiring an expensive new device, which they regard as having a "force-multiplier" effect, and which they will have to match.

Danger warning for crocodile tourists

From Stephen Taylor
Sydney

Disturbed and frustrated by a series of crocodile attacks which it sees as a threat to a revived tourism industry, the Canberra Government yesterday renewed warnings to visitors about the natural perils lurking in the outback.

Two people have been killed in as many weeks by giant crocodiles in Australia's northern wilderness in a macabre consequence of incidents involving American tourists.

Last Sunday a young woman from Colorado was snatched while swimming in a Western Australia river by an estuarine (salt water) crocodile estimated to have been about 12ft long.

Earlier this month, a group of American tourists on a safari in the Northern Territory watched a horror-stricken crocodile attack a local fisherman attempting to ford a river.

The attacks coincide with a tourism boom to the remote "far north", stimulated by the phenomenal success of the film *Crocodile Dundee*, which relates the exploits of a breezy outback character who tussles with crocodiles in between charming equally hard-bitten New Yorkers. The film has been particularly successful with American audiences.

Yesterday Mr Barry Cohen, the Australian Minister for the Environment, said that the attacks had taken place on rivers where the danger of crocodile attack was clearly signposted. He added that fines might be imposed on those who ignored these warnings.

The latest victim was an attractive young woman, Mrs Fay Meadows, aged 24, who had followed the America's Cup yacht racing in Perth and was on a launch cruise along the north coast of Australia to Queensland.

The vessel was moored in the mouth of the Prince Regent River, north-east of the town of Broome. Mrs Meadows had been basking in a rubber dinghy, and apparently decided to swim the short distance to the launch.

Witnesses reportedly said that they saw a crocodile surface near her, then there was a commotion in the water before both disappeared. Nothing has been seen of either since.

Two weeks ago, a group of American tourists saw a crocodile take Mr Kerry McLoughlin from midstream of the East



Mrs Fay Meadows, the latest victim of a crocodile attack in the "far north".

galligator River. These latest deaths bring to seven the number of people killed by crocodiles in the past 15 months.

According to the *Guinness Book of Records*, the largest known crocodile of this species which was harpooned in Queensland's Norman River in July 1957, and which was measured at 28ft 4in.

Between the war and the beginning of this decade crocodile attacks were rare, the creatures having been reduced

in numbers to around 7,000 by systematic hunting which was only curbed in the 1960s.

As a result of these controls, the crocodile population is now estimated to have grown to about 50,000.

Conservationists are already preparing for an anticipated lobbying for the relaxation of culling controls.

They will argue that greater care exercised by visitors in the boom of adventure holidays to the "far north" would be sufficient to prevent any further tragedies.

Prosecutor seeks jail for ex-Nazi doctors

Bonn — A West German prosecutor yesterday demanded jail sentences of six years for two former Nazi doctors accused of helping to murder nearly 15,500 mentally ill Germans under Hitler's euthanasia programme (John England writes).

Dr Aquilin Ullrich, aged 73, of Stuttgart, and Dr Heinrich Bunke, 72, of Celle, told the court that they were only following orders. But the Frankfurt prosecutor said that they should have known they were committing murder, even under Nazi law.

The two were tried on the same charges in Frankfurt in 1967, but were acquitted when the court found they had been "confused" about their orders. The High Court refused to accept the verdict and ordered a new trial.

Signing date

Peking (AP) — Senhor Anibal Cavaco Silva, Portugal's Prime Minister, will visit China from April 11 to 17 for the formal signing of an agreement which will return the Portuguese enclave of Macao to Chinese sovereignty.

Pilots strike

Rome (Reuters) — Alitalia pilots started five days of industrial action causing the cancellation of dozens of domestic flights and bringing chaos to several international services.

Helping hand

Belgrade (Reuters) — Yugoslavia has been asked to produce several major components, including the landing gear, for a new Soviet airliner, the Ilyushin 114.

Karpov wish

Dubai (Reuters) — Anatoly Karpov, the former world chess champion, said in an interview with the *Khaleej Times* that he wants his title rematch with Garry Kasparov to take place in Dubai, where last year's Chess Olympiad was staged.

Goat rustlers

Caltanissetta, Sicily (AFP) — Two armed rustlers attacked goatherds and made off with 364 goats at the weekend in a variation on the kind of kidnapping for which this island is famed.

Diplomatic row in Harare

US angered at aircraft ban

From Jan Rensch, Harare

Relations between Zimbabwe and the United States, healing gradually after a history of confrontation, plummeted suddenly at the weekend after a row between the American Ambassador and Zimbabwe's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ironically, the man at the centre of the row is Mr James Rawlings, aged 57, who arrived here in November with a mission to sweeten the ties between the countries, and who declared the hope that "unnecessary and unproductive confrontations will be avoided".

Highly publicized here now is an incident two weeks ago when Mr Rawlings stormed out of a meeting in the office of Mr Ellick Mashigadze, the Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, after being refused permission to use an American-registered C-12 aircraft based in South Africa for a familiarization tour of rural Zimbabwe.

The Americans say Mr

Rawlings was first given approval to use the aircraft, but that this was later reversed.

Mr Mashigadze was the subject of a report on the front page of *The Herald*, Zimbabwe's leading daily newspaper, in which he was quoted as saying that the ambassador had cut him short during their meeting and stormed out.

"His conduct, frankly, was undiplomatic and certainly unbecoming of a person of his elevated status," he said.

A proposal by Mr Rawlings to include Cabinet ministers and provincial governors on the aircraft was, he said, "condescending and patronizing", implying that the ministers were ignorant of their country.

The secretary said Zimbabwe's aircraft charter facilities were "more than adequate", and the trip would not be allowed to proceed with the use of a foreign aircraft.

The cool relations stem chiefly from attacks on Amer-

ica by Zimbabwean representatives in the UN. Diplomats here also cite their severe frustration at not being able to communicate at all with the Government, a situation known to be the reason for the previous ambassador, Mr Charles Miller, terminating his three-year tour of duty in Harare last year.

In July last year, Mr Jimmy Carter, the former US President, led a walkout from a diplomatic reception after a Zimbabwean Cabinet minister read a scathing anti-American speech. The State Department followed up by cutting \$22 million (£13.5 million) from Zimbabwe's aid.

The embassy yesterday tried to play down the incident, expressing surprise that an "administrative disagreement" had become "a major issue". But whether Mr Rawlings will back down sufficiently and go ahead with his trip in a local aircraft is not yet clear.

Hong Kong moves to curb 'economic refugees'

From David Bonavia
Hong Kong

Mr David Jeaffreson, the Secretary for Security, said yesterday that Vietnamese refugees who come to Hong Kong for economic reasons alone will be sent back.

Mr Jeaffreson said the British Embassy in Hanoi would contact the Vietnamese Government about the issue, but the decision is sure to attract

criticism from humanitarian circles, who fear such refugees will be maltreated if they are forcibly returned.

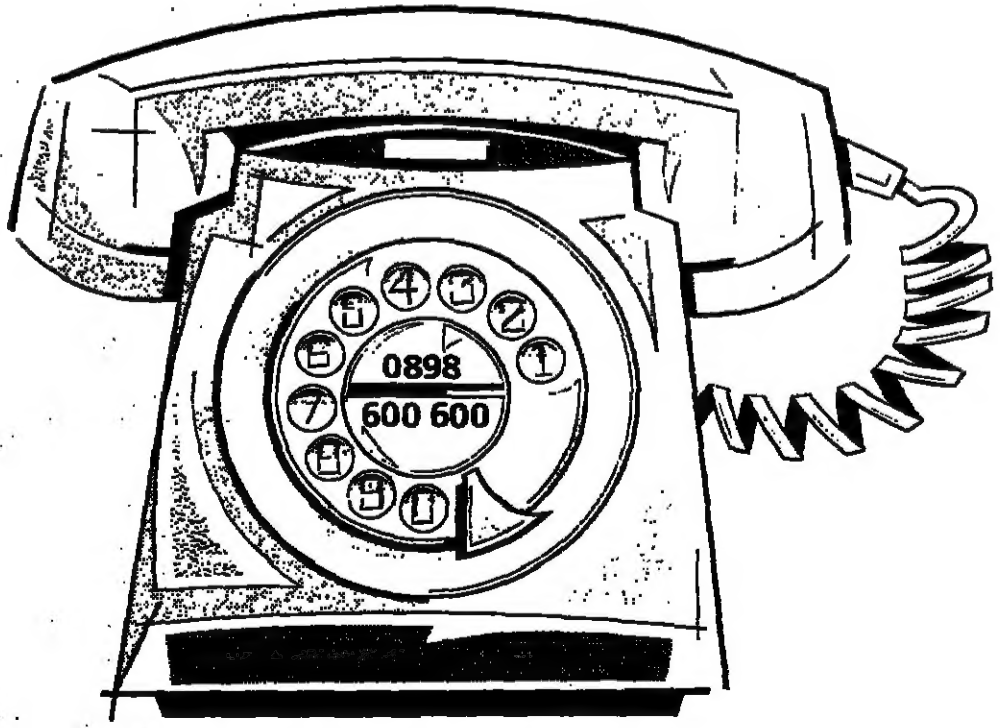
More than 300 refugees from Vietnam have arrived in Hong Kong this year by boat, in addition to more than 8,000 already accommodated in closed camps here with no chance of work and diminishing hopes of resettlement.

The Hong Kong Government is to screen refugees for political or religious beliefs as the cause of their flight from Vietnam, and will not accept any more merely seeking better living standards. But this is seen mainly as a move to discourage potential refugees.

Hardly any of the refugees still in closed camps here are willing to be repatriated to Vietnam. Offers of resettlement in the developed countries are drying up, and the Hong Kong authorities feel they have to support an unfair share of the burden of looking after those already here.

Mr Jeaffreson said there had been no unfavourable reaction from any British MP to the policy of sending "economic refugees" back to Vietnam. He said refugees would not be repatriated if they faced inhumane treatment.

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS CONTINUE ON PAGE 41

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SPECTRUM

Healthy move or can of worms?

From tomorrow the body that advises the public on diet and health has a new name and structure, bringing it firmly under the Government's wing. How independent will it, and should it, be? Sally Brompton investigates

After a lifetime filled with public discord, it is perhaps fitting that the Health Education Council should slip into its alter ego in one final blaze of controversy.

While the political debate over its allegedly suppressed report on the discrepancy in health between the rich and poor drags on, the mantle of the new government-appointed Health Education Authority to a muted fanfare of doubt and confusion.

Almost since its inception in 1968, the HEC has faced criticism and, on occasions, outrage over its headline-making campaigns, ranging from the pro-contraception posters of a pregnant man in the early Seventies to its reports on the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and an unhealthy diet which have in turn upset industry, the farmers and the Government.

To its supporters, that is what the HEC was all about — a semi-independent voice with the freedom to prick the Establishment bubble when the need arose. To its enemies, it was an unnecessary, money-wasting, publicity-seeking quango, with little clout.

Even so, the sudden announcement that it was to be abolished, mentioned almost in passing by Health Secretary Norman Fowler last November, stunned friends and foes alike. Not even the HEC's outspoken director general, Dr David Player, had had any advance warning. He and his officers were told the news at the exact moment that Norman Fowler was making the announcement in the House of Commons.

Astonished and "slightly dazed", Player claims that he initially welcomed the decision "because I thought it could have been worse". It was only as the weeks passed that he became "increasingly angry about it all because of the way it was carried out — the lack of consultation, the lack of consideration for staff, the lack of sensitivity by the Department, the lowering of morale."

Because of his record of clashes with the Government, Player's application for the job of chief executive of the new authority was never thought likely to succeed. Instead the post has gone to Dr Spencer Hagar, a district medical officer who has pushed through radical changes in Cambridgeshire — no smoking and healthier diets in hospitals — and has ensured that his authority is better placed than most to deal with the expected surge of Aids cases.

"I wouldn't have applied for this job if I didn't fully accept what Norman Fowler said he wanted, a sturdy independent and campaigning organization," Dr Hagar said yesterday. "I am very excited by the challenge. My priority is to set some clear goals in health education and to devise the means by which we can achieve them."

Officially, the reason for the changes is that the council needed the status of a statutory authority in order to orchestrate the anti-Aids campaign. They are also a means of demonstrating that health education is very much a part of the National Health Service. Nevertheless, there has been much speculation that the whole affair is an elaborate plot to get rid of Player and force his organization to toe the government line.

Although it has appointed the 15 members of the new authority, which includes nine of the HEC's 26 members, the Government has delayed the selection of the four chief executives until this week, which has meant that the future of Player, John Hitchens (head of current affairs), Dr Alan Mayson Davis (chief medical officer) and Tony O'Neill (assistant director-general), who all reapplied for

their jobs, has been as uncertain as that of the authority itself. The precise structure of the HEA has yet to be agreed but its chairman, Sir Brian Bailey, insists that its remit is "much the same" as that of the HEC. "The fundamental difference in practical terms is that we shall have a much closer relationship with the National Health Service," says Bailey, who was also chairman of the old council. "That means that I shall be able to call on the vast range of the NHS's facilities to help the authority whereas before I had to go cap in hand."

"Also, the fact that the Secretary of State has asked me to join his health cabinet means that the government is really putting preventative medicine — and that

means health education and health promotion — very firmly on its agenda."

One of the most controversial health issues in recent years has been the Government's refusal to endorse the findings of the Joint Advisory Committee on Nutrition Education (JACNE), a body set up by the HEC. The report infuriated both the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the food manufacturers by advising the public to eat less fat. Significantly, JACNE too, has been disbanded by the Government.

While JACNE's chairman, Dr John Garrow, is philosophical about his committee's demise, he stresses the need for the new health authority to seek nutritional advice from "appropriate



Deep waters: Dr Spencer Hagar, head of the new authority

'My priority is to set some clear goals in health education... and to achieve them'

people" in the absence of any qualified nutritionists among its members.

The closest the HEA has come to recruiting experts in that particular field is the appointment of Caroline Waldegrave, managing director of the Leith School of Food and Wine (and the wife of William Waldegrave, the Conservative MP), and Carey Dennis, a director of Tesco. Other key positions which have been lost in the reorganization are those of health environmentalist, dental expert and TUC representative.

Sir Brian explains the lack of evident authority in certain areas as the inevitable result of having a smaller, more manageable council. "We feel it is far better to have more generalists who will look first of all to their own staff for considerable expert input on various things. But we will also need to draw on the vast reservoir of expertise around the country as well as a network of advisory bodies."

The HEA will continue to receive the HEC's £10 million government grant, and it will also take on the balance of the £20 million earmarked for the Aids campaign. Sir Brian admits that Aids will be the authority's major activity but denies that it will be at the expense of anything else.

"I would feel it was an appalling failure on my part if that happened because, although Aids is a horrible thing, the hard fact is that alcohol, tobacco and bad diet are currently still killing off a lot more people than Aids," he says.

The main fear of Dr Player and his supporters is that the new authority, with its total accountability to the NHS, will lose what little independence its predecessor possessed. It is certainly causing concern to organizations such as

Action on Alcohol Abuse. "For the first time, the Government is going to have a direct hand in health education and by implication that means that friends of the Government are going to have a much greater say in what happens," says the AAA's director, Don Steele, who sees the change as a means of "if not silencing, at least modifying health messages and providing the opportunity for the pro-commercial lobby to have a louder voice."

David Simpson, director of Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), particularly criticizes the appointment to the authority of Ann Burdus, a director of Europe's largest market research company, AGB, which sells its research to food, alcohol and cigarette companies. Burdus, however, denies any conflict. "The bedrock of our business is syndicated measurement and we sell the information to anybody who wishes to subscribe. Were it not for the fact that we are totally detached, we would rapidly go out of business."

Among the grass roots workers of the HEC, however, there is less confidence in the authority's independent future. Even so, only 16 out of 75 have opted to take their redundancy. One staff member who is leaving told me: "You can't work effectively when there is no continuity in either work, practice or staff."

Donald Reid, who remains acting head of the organization's education and training division, admits that the current uncertainty has affected its working relationships with organizations like ASH. "We totally lack credibility at the moment," Reid says. "And the way this thing was done has been very disruptive for the staff here. We've had a very bad time and morale is still very low."

Nor is Reid convinced that the changeover is necessarily the best thing for health. "I do think that somebody somewhere should be loudly coming out with totally independent advice. The Government wants us to be much more active and much better funded to run its own campaign and that is a different function. Fine. But if so, there's a real gap now for somebody else to set themselves up as an entirely independent voice — preferably not with government money."

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THE NEW ADVISERS

Members of the new Health Education Authority (former members of the HEC marked with an asterisk):

Dr Spencer Hagar, chief executive of the HEA. Previously district medical officer for Cambridgeshire Health Authority. Sir Brian Bailey*, chairman of the HEA. Previously chairman of the Health Education Council since 1983 and chairman of Television South West. Ann Burdus*, deputy chairman of the HEA, director of AGB Research. Alastair Service*, deputy chairman of the HEA, General Secretary of the Family Planning Association. Professor Anthony Clare*, professor of psychological medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital and an expert on alcohol. Sebastian Coe*, vice-chairman of the Sports Council.



Sir Brian Bailey Ann Burdus

Miss Carey Dennis, director of products and consumer services department for Tesco Stores. Professor Alastair Geddes, professor of communicable diseases at Birmingham University and an expert on Aids. Pat Marshall, a director of nursing services for City and Hackney Health Authority. Robin Moss*, head of IBA's educational programme services. Ann Parker*, director of Berkshire Social Services. James Pease-Watkins*, personnel director of the Bowater Corporation. Bruce Rhodes*, assistant secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society.

Dr Colin Waime, GP and expert on health education. Caroline Waldegrave*, managing director of the Leith School of Food and Wine, cookery writer, food expert and wife of Tory MP William Waldegrave. Kate Wood, Schools Curriculum Development Committee, right-wing exponent of anti-sex education.

Pair in the chair

The married couple who put *Mastermind* viewers through the wringer this week play it at home, too

Being married to a know-all might be miserable, unless you happen to have a data bank crammed in your own cranium. Few couples can be as evenly matched, or heavily loaded, in this regard as Paul and Christine Hancock, who competed against each other in Sunday night's heat of *Mastermind* and presented the quiz show with the tightest finish its presenter, Magnus Magnusson, can remember.

After two rounds in which they each achieved 34 correct answers with only two passes (leaving the other two competitors floundering far behind), the Hancocks went through a sudden-death play off, each facing the same five questions. It was only the last of the five questions that finally gave police inspector Hancock victory over his wife.

The couple have been married 13 years, and have no children. They buy all the quiz books they can lay hands on and a comprehensive collection of quiz games as well. They admit they like to organize quiz parties with their friends for fun, but they deny that their interests are purely academic. "We are interested in all the normal things, like sport, cinema and the theatre," Paul says.



Marriage of two Masterminds: Paul and Christine Hancock

Paul went to work for Boots the Chemists after leaving school at 18 with a grade C in English and an A in History. Christine, now head of the English department at Chellaston Comprehensive in Derby, went to Leeds University with her "BBC" (Be in English and Art, C in French) before becoming a teacher. Paul followed her there "as a very mature student on a police scholarship" in 1984-5 (he was 36). His special subject was William Pitt and the Seven Years War — a field the BBC ruled too narrow for *Mastermind*, for whose benefit he extended it to The Life and Times of William Pitt.

It was Christine who first applied to go on *Mastermind*. Paul decided to join in when

she applied for the second time. When offered the chance to go in the same heat they decided to do so "for moral support". They also calculated that with two of them in the same heat, they improved the chance of one getting through.

Christine's *Mastermind* special subject, the life and work of Rubens, was, in fact, her third choice. Originally she wanted to do the spaghetti westerns of Sergio Leone, but the BBC said they could not find enough intelligent questions to ask about that, so then she asked to do the novels of Thomas Hardy, to which someone else had already laid claim.

She admits she swotted: "I took out some books, and came down to the National Gallery." The one special subject question she got wrong was not really about Rubens at all, but the identity of an artist who had painted the pair to one of his pictures.

Paul had a perfect first round on Pitt, but his slip over Boot helped Christine get back to level-playing after the general knowledge round. Of the final five questions they faced, both got the first three wrong. Next came a question about the earth's atmosphere. Both correctly answered: "Stratosphere." Both were guessing. And finally: "Which European capital was partly devastated by an earthquake in 1755?" Christine, quaking herself, took a wild stab: "Paris." Paul, on the other hand, was home and dry. "Lisbon," he said firmly.

Christine may yet have her revenge. With her high score, she could still qualify for the best losers' semi-final, and she's baring up on Botticelli just in case.

Robin Young

Lure of the snake

A new kind of crush awaits visitors to the Natural History Museum this Easter

The powerful curves of a 15ft Indian rock python are the chosen weapon of the Natural History Museum in its attempt to overcome an expected slump in attendance after admission charges are imposed tomorrow.

A live python will be making eight appearances each day on Easter Saturday and Monday, and the audience, expected to be mostly children, will be invited to handle the creature.

There will be other, non-poisonous snakes, too, as well as a four-foot iguana and a tortoise, all introduced by Peter Curry, of the Centre for Life Studies, based at London Zoo. "Nothing will be dangerous," he says, "but I think people should learn the truth about these animals — they're not going to crush anything to death, not even the python," he says.

This and other attractions are part of a planned Spring Festival, the aim of which, the museum says, is primarily educational. But there is also the hope of offsetting some of the expected 40 per cent drop in the 3 million visitors it and the Geological Museum had last year. The NHM has opted for a £2 charge (with concessions) to cope with a projected £1.5 million shortfall on income for 1987-88.

Tony Harvey, the NHM's co-ordinator of planning and development, says: "The charging issue is relevant, obviously, but it is also part of a strategy of being much more aware of our customers." The "hands on" theme is a central part of the strategy. Activity trolleys will be dotted about the galleries during the festival, with stuffed pangolins, gulls' wings, sea anemones and lumps of minerals.

"Charging or not charging, you can no longer sit back and expect people to come through the doors without actually telling them what you're doing and giving them something they want to relate to," Harvey says. "London finds itself now in competition with other British cities."

Simon Tait

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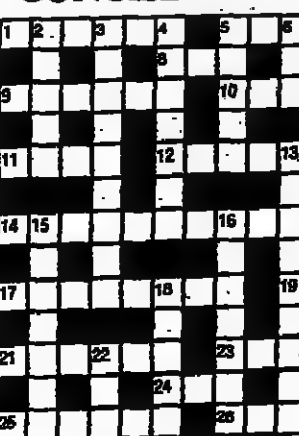
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- 10 Sudden (6)
- 11 Curved image (4)
- 12 Imply (8)
- 14 With highest praise (5,3,5)
- 15 Lunar striking (7)
- 16 Epitomise classic (5)
- 17 Maritime (5)
- 20 UK business body (1,1,1,1)
- 21 Association football (6)
- 22 Deprive of food (6)
- 23 Game warden (3)
- 24 Convert into base (6)
- 25 Slightly (6)
- 26 Boy George (5)
- 27 Feb 2 feast (9)
- 28 Mournful (7)
- 29 Resolute attitude (5)
- 30 Uster TA (1,1,1)
- 31 Generally reckoned (7)
- 32 Confined noise (9)
- 33 Pull up (7)
- 34 Lunar striking (7)
- 35 Epitomise classic (5)
- 36 Maritime (5)
- 39 UK business body (1,1,1,1)

SOLUTION TO NO 1219
ACROSS: 1 Sprawl 5 Debt 8 Whirl 9 Vortex 11 Squabble 13 Chum 15 Inter city 18 Rule 19 Escalate 22 Pouch 23 Quaff 24 Sips 25 Gammon
DOWN: 2 Puff 3 Aar 4 Level crossing 5 Duty 6 Blighly 7 Swift 8 Lamp 12 Base 14 Lima 15 Illicit 16 Grip 17 Dooty 20 Alamo 21 Mix 23 QOM

LEGAL APPOINTMENT CONTINUE ON PAGE 41

FASHION

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Silk threads of history

Fancy embroidery is the story of the season. From bold curls of bright silk to delicate handkerchief edging, stitches are giving surface decoration to the light spring fabrics.

Designers making a big statement with embroidery are splashing it in black, Spanish-style over the front of a simple shirt or curly jacket. Silken ropes are twisted into military frogging and everything from wool thread to string is worked down lapels or along a hemline.

Dense and intricate crewel embroidery, done in dusky colours on a natural backcloth, is now being adapted for modern clothing, used as decoration on cuffs and collars or even on the body of a classic blazer.

The much finer traycloth embroideries that once kept their place in granny's parlour are also moving into high fashion, with pretty white-on-white designs encrusted on to cotton shirts. Even knitwear is decorated with stitched-on flowers and appliques.

Oriental embroidery - a theme taken up by the Turkish-born designer Rifat Ozbek - gives an exotic feel to evening clothes as black silk thread is overlaid on dark velvet or dramatic gilding highlights moist silk and tulle.

While high fashion and the high street both rediscover the charms of the lazy daisy stitch, the current exhibition of

Embroidery is back, reports Suzy Menkes, with echoes of Spain and a dash of tsarist Russia

"Russian Style 1700-1920" at the Barbican in London celebrates triumphantly the art of the embroiderer.

The 200 costumes and accessories from the collection at the Hermitage in Leningrad are almost all embroidered from the elaborate and overweening court dresses of the 18th century to the colourful Russian peasant skirts and kerchiefs.

The sheer lavishness of many of the outfits is breathtaking - especially the wardrobe of Peter the Great himself, whose velvet frock coats are entwined with leafy embroideries. Under an imperial flower-patterned dressing gown is a long linen waistcoat embellished with a jungle of greenery and lace.

The early 19th-century dresses, delightfully exhibited against a backcloth of Leningrad's sugary pastel facades, seem up-to-the-moment in shape. On the fine wool and lawn clothes that rise high in the waist or slope off the shoulders are the most

subtle of embroideries, especially on a long-sleeved morning dress decorated with white-on-white satin stitch, its scalloped border edged with drawn-threadwork flowers.

After the relative staidness of the later crinolined gowns, lightness and prettiness flower again in the Edwardian period dresses, decorated with garlands of flowers and ribbon bows. These are mostly the work of the Moscow fashion house of Lamanova, although Russian society ladies patronized Parisian designers, including the English-born Worth, whose floral brocade dress is a riot of the rococo.

The court costumes are fossilized in a Renaissance splendour, the gold thread embroideries standing out like sculpture on crimson velvet. Such conspicuous embellishment expresses more than just the wealth and ostentation of the Russian court at the start of the 19th century; it seems symbolic of the crumbling tsarist regime.

The Hermitage costumes mostly fell to the state after the October 1917 Revolution. But the Barbican exhibition also contains a fascinating display of elaborate Russian textiles from the design library of Courtlaude, the major sponsor of the show.

The silk brocades, woven in rich russet colours, overlaid with deep green, peacock blue and dull gold, come in exotic and natural floral patterns. Those designs have also spawned another textile project that will bring the heritage of embroidered designs into our homes.

Courtlaude are increasingly using their extraordinary archive collection - books of woven silk patterns or more modern naive cottons - as inspiration for the fabrics they make for fashion and home.

The first fruits of the Design Archive Collection - to be launched on the public later in the year - have been used in the Barbican now as backcloths for the fantastic Russian clothes on display. Judging by the number of students crunched with their sketchbooks in the gallery, the embroideries of the past will also be an inspiration for fashions yet to come.

Embroidery, like knitting, was once a woman's art. And although the fine and detailed work from the past would be beyond most of us, this season's look could be worked out on last year's T-shirt and skirt for the cost of an embroidery needle and thread.

"Russian Style 1700 - 1920: Court and Country Dress from the Hermitage" is on display until April 26 at the Barbican Art Gallery.

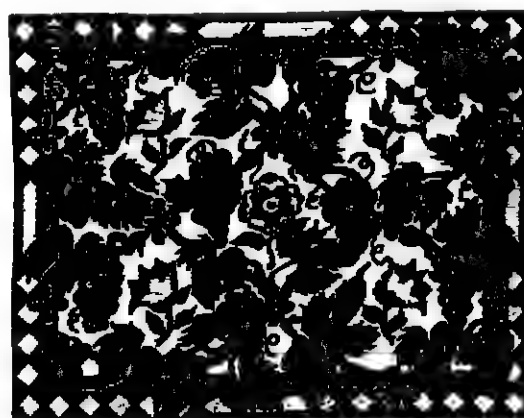


Above: White cotton shirt with black embroidery, £24.99 from Miss Selfridge, Duke Street, W1 and branches. Full turquoise skirt, £45 by Prima, from Fenwick's, New Bond Street, W1. Black matador hat £180 by Graham Smith for Kangol, from Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1. Black leather gloves, £23.95 by Dents from Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1. Branches of Alders and Owen Owen. High black grograin court shoes, £86 by Johnny Moke, 388 Kings Road, SW10. Grey 'marble' earrings, £31 by Pellini from Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1 and Fitz Fashions, Farnham.

Right: Red silk drill jacket with black embroidery, £250 by Shellagh Brown from Du Mello, 6 New Cavendish Street, W1; Lisa Sterling, 19 St Anne Street, Manchester; and Smiths, 12 Beaufort Square, Bath. Tear-drop earrings, £39 by Pellini from Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1 and Vania Jesmond, Swansea.



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The kit is also available with the stool, which is polished, mahogany-finished hardwood with cabriole legs and comes fully assembled. It has a removable fabric-covered top to which the tapestry is attached and instructions on how to do this are included.



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FASHION



PEOPLE

Testing the air

The sight of a giant perfume bottle and the whiff of his new fragrance greeted Claude Montana on the first floor of Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, last Wednesday. Customers and invited guests had gathered to meet the French fashion designer who paid a flying visit to London to launch "Montana", which is packaged in a sculptured spiral of frosted glass and costs £35 for a quarter-ounce bottle. The design of the bottle is based on Montana's image of a woman in motion, but whether Harvey Nichols' customers, weighed down with carrier bags and Hermès scarves and spiralling up the escalators, lived up to his mental image is doubtful. Dressed in a black silk bomber jacket with a baby-blue hood, Montana stood fanning himself by an open window during lunch: perhaps the spicy top-notes of marigold and ginger blasting out through the air conditioning proved too much for the delicate nose which created the fragrance.

Media man

Browsing through London's Camden Lock market stalls last weekend was another Parisian designer, Jean Paul Gaultier. Gaultier was in London to judge fabric designs submitted by British fashion students for the Courteille Fabric Awards. "I was very pleased with the entries," Gaultier enthused. "Very original, very British." The winning designs will be incorporated in his autumn collection. British television has made the most of Gaultier's brief stay in London: as well as *The Tube* and *Saturday Review*, he has been interviewed by Selma Scott of *The Clothes Show*.

Shop talk

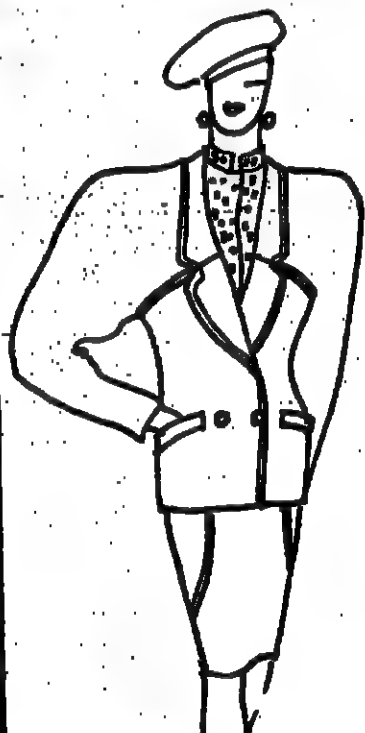
The success of royal wedding dress designer Linda Cierach's show at gentleman's outfitters Gieves & Hawkes has given the sober Savile Row company inspiration for another joint venture. Next month the Adam Room opens its elegant doors to present-bunting Sloanes when Sloane Street emporium, The General Trading Company, opens another branch. Should Prince Edward or Lord Linley pop the question this spring, friends of the bride are sure to find the perfect gift waiting within these dignified surroundings.

Above: Black cactus embroidery on a white cotton poplin long jacket and skirt, by Susan Backhouse, £125 the suit from Liberty, Regent Street, W1; Hyper Hyper, Kensington High Street, W8; Magenta, Belfast; Mango, Windsor and Weeds, Leicester. Green cotton sleeveless polo-neck sweater, £8.95 from Fenwick's, New Bond Street, W1. Earrings £16 by Pellini from Liberty, Regent Street, W1.

Above right: Almond green heavy cotton separates with black spiral embroidery by Betty Jackson. Shirt, £105; skirt, £98.50 also available in stone; Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1; Liberty, Regent Street, W1 and H&M, Derby. Suede belt, £29 by Capray from Fenwick's, New Bond Street, W1.

All furnishing fabrics from The Design Archives Collection taken from Courtlaids Design Library.

Hair by MARIO for Schumi. Make up by HELEN JEFFERS. Photographs by CHRIS DAWES.



The Oldfield roadshow

Bruce Oldfield has built his empire with acute business sense, as a new book reveals

In 1986, Bruce Oldfield was voted Northern Personality of the Year. Despite his much publicized origins as a Barnardo boy, it is difficult to think of urbane and sophisticated Oldfield as a personification of true north country grit. Yet that background of common sense, as much as his winning ways with the Princess of Wales, is Bruce Oldfield's secret ingredient. That, and the sheer slogging hard work of putting the biannual collections together (Suzy Menkes writes).

The fashion chain from cloth to customer, linked with witty advice and witty asides, is presented by Georgina Howell in *Bruce Oldfield's Season* — launched on battle-scarred fashion professionals as the recent round of European shows closes. Who chooses the mannequins for the shop window? The models for the show? Who presents sketches to couture customers? Who chooses the fabric that goes to the factory that makes the undies that sell under

licence with the Bruce Oldfield label? Who designs the labels? The detailed grind of the fashion year, with its recurring themes, is relentless. Bruce Oldfield is intelligent enough to realize that if his career is to develop, he must break out of this annual charmed circle. He needs to build an empire on the backs of his famous clients — Charlotte Rampling, Joan Collins, Stefanie Powers, Anjelica Huston — who are photographed elegantly in black and white. So a chapter of the book is devoted to the licensing that brings in the lolly. When Oldfield was 18, rootless, black and in search of a career, he

announced that he wanted to be famous. That "driving ambition", he says in the racy text, drives him on. Grainy pictures show him at work draping dresses on a dummy or taking decisions with his teeth, giving a sense of immediacy, and Oldfield's designs with their sinuous, elongated body shapes (left) are sketched on the page, with notebook references to fabrics.

Georgina Howell's story starts in October 1985 — when I picked a Bruce Oldfield design as Dress of the Year for the Costume Museum in Bath, and he picked his fabrics at the Interstoff fabric fair in Frankfurt — and ends with the fashion show to launch his autumn/winter collection.

One small paragraph on the last page tells the whole story. Oldfield is going back to Frankfurt for fabric for the next collection, starting over and over again.

Bruce Oldfield's Season with Georgina Howell is published by Pan Hardback, price £15.95.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Making history

The man appointed official historian to the Cabinet in 1973 had once fallen foul of the Official Secrets Act. We are reminded in a book published this week, *Official Secrets: the Use and Abuse of the Act*, by David Hooper, who is Peter Wright's solicitor, tells the story of the first marital rape case. Donald Cameron Watt, who, as a sergeant in the Army's field security section, was involved in questioning Hungarian refugees at the end of the war. So fascinated was he by their stories that when he was demobilized in 1948 he stuffed them into 13 packets and posted them to himself. They were intercepted and Watt was court-martialled, but since there was no suggestion that he had anything but an historian's interest in them, he was merely reprimanded and reduced to the rank of corporal. A few years later, when he applied for a Foreign Office job and admitted his offence, his interviewer remarked, "Well, Mr Watt, we have been a naughty boy." Wright should have been so lucky.

Buckling under

One of the unforeseen hazards of high office — if you happen to be the Lord Chancellor — is the fact that ceremonial pumps that go with the uniform. So uncomfortable have they proved for the arthritic ankles of 79-year-old Lord Hailsham that he has had to design his own. His customized pumps come from a theatrical costumier and are decorated with a pair of large silver bows belonging to his late wife. The Lord Chancellor's office tells me that Hailsham found the standard issue agony.

● The Lords took evidence yesterday on the Infant Child Protection Bill — in Westminster's Moss Room.

Unpresent

It must have seemed a poet's dream: a poetry recital in a bar. Clutching a copy of his new collection, *Presences*, P.J. Kavanagh turned up in good time at Brackenell Arts Centre and ordered a drink. A cringingly embarrassing half hour passed as he waited for the centre's director, Michael Launchbury, to arrive and begin the proceedings. Finally, Kavanagh's impatience got the better of him. "Look," he told the boozers, identifying himself, "would you like me to read you some poems?" Halfway through his recital Launchbury arrived, apologizing for forgetting to turn the clocks forward. Kavanagh was still miffed when I talked to him yesterday: "I decanted as quickly as was decent — but not before putting a hex on the place."



Barry Fantoni
"Bad news, I'm afraid. The red tape is made in Japan."

Noteworthy

Crisis at a Guildhall banquet for King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. As the Recorder of London, Sir James Miskin, wound up his speech of welcome at a reception beforehand, guests noticed a terse exchange between Fahd and one of his aides, who began to rummage in his robes. A look of guilt crept across his face, followed by a second exchange which sent a second aide running down the aisle, to return a couple of minutes later clutching a piece of paper. He handed it to the king, who rose imperceptibly to deliver his thank-you speech.

Roped out

The hanging lobby will be minus one of its most prominent supporters when Sir Ian Percival's bill to bring back the gallows is debated in the Commons tomorrow evening. I had scarcely begun asking "Will the Prime Minister be back in time for..." when a No 10 spokesman replied with a curt: "No, Midnight."

Wrong tree

Not above joining the odd neo-cons myself, I am lost in admiration for Norman Wills, the TUC leader. Launching a TUC document, *Working to Win*, with Neil Kinnock yesterday, he told a press conference: "We will not burke at recognizing the hard choices involved in allocating scarce resources." A press release confirmed the spelling. Mystified journalists concluded that "burke" was a combination of shirk and balk — rather than anything to do with "berk", a stupid person or fool according to my dictionary.

PHS

End this surgery secrecy

by Steve Norris

The Access to Personal Files Bill, proposed by Liberal MP Archy Kirkwood, has passed its second reading and continues on its way through committee tomorrow. But despite considerable support from all parties, and almost unanimous support outside, the promoters have had to slash the scope of the bill to a minimum because of government concern over the cost of implementing it: social work records, housing and education files are the sole survivors. This is still a valuable advance, but throughout the second reading debate the aspect of the bill which concerned MPs most was that of written medical files where, to date, no agreement has been possible.

The government has conceded the principle in the Data Protection Act which, despite some reluctance from doctors, will provide for modified access to medical records held on computers. But the incidence of simple factual error in general practitioner records surely makes the case for extending the law to cover written files. In one study in the Oxford area, 18 per cent of patients who were sent a summary of their medical history found

they contained errors or omissions, and other studies have produced similar results.

Professional support for access to written medical records has been impressive. The Royal College of Nursing, the Royal College of Midwives and the Health Visitors Association have been persuaded, and although the annual general meeting of the British Medical Association voted narrowly against full access last year, there is growing support for the idea from doctors themselves. An increasing number of reports coming from GPs and consultants stress the virtues of access in terms of accuracy and, more importantly, in the way access increases a patient's confidence in the doctor and strengthens the relationship between them.

The government's opposition seems to be due solely to fears of the cost of implementation. It is difficult to make an accurate estimate of cost, since no one knows how great the demand for access will be, but we do now have the advantage of seeing what has happened in other countries where access legislation is already in place.

In Australia, the Department of Employment estimated that the Freedom of Information Act would result in between 100,000 and 200,000 requests. The actual number received during the first year of operation was 166. The Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs reckoned on 103,700 requests against the actual 1,069, and in the area of health records the estimate of 16,000 requests compared with an actual 249. There is no reason why there should be any difference in Britain, but DHSS officials are likely to be warning ministers of horrendous costs: and massive staff demands which simply would not materialize.

In any case, access is an important civil liberty and cost ought not to be a bar. Those doctors who do not provide access are proof that it is not about to bite the profession on the heels. Outsiders find our patronizing secrecy both irritating and inexplicable, and rightly so. It is time we recognized it and included medical records in what could be one of the last private member's bills to reach the statute book in this parliament.

The author is Conservative MP for Oxford East.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

A final 'no' to the noose



Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in Britain, in July 1953, and Gwynne Evans, whose execution with fellow murderer Peter Allen nine years later just preceded the abolition of capital punishment

'Defeat of tomorrow's bill will mark the very last attempt to re-knot the rope'

You come to think of it, the number of murders committed in this country every year, even including the terrorist and intra-terrorist ones in Northern Ireland, is almost incredibly small. That is no consolation to the victims, but it does very strongly suggest that for most people the everlasting hath fixed his canon against it.

I believe it is much too facile to go on from that argument to the claim that the unique horror of killing which possesses most sane people leads them to feel that it is only right to match killing with killing; a unique punishment for a unique crime. The First Murderer (a fatidic, remember, which adds an extra layer of horror) paid for his crime not with his life, but with lifelong expiation; the mark upon him was his own. (And hands up all who had forgotten that the Lord forbade anyone to slay him, on pain of sevenfold vengeance. On the whole, I prefer the Lord to Sir Ian Percival.)

The murderer is a unique figure, arousing a unique shudder. Quick, quick, then; kill him, and we need shudder no more. Most people would not put it like that, or recognize themselves in my putting, but they are there. Why do you suppose that most people do not know, and despite all the evidence implacably refuse to know, that most murders are

committed within the family? Because that would demythologise the crime, indeed domesticate it, and overthrow the dark totem. It is not just that people are irrational on the subject; they will themselves to be.

That is why it is virtually useless to put forward the rational arguments against capital punishment, starting with the one about finding that a man is innocent after he has had his neck stretched, and finishing with the one about debasing our society with the beastly ritual and headgear act that the ritual accompanies. Do think for a moment, I beg you, about what drew the crowds to a public hanging in the same spirit as they went to the fair; do you seriously suppose that the impulse in that dark fair-goer is absent from the advocate of hanging, just because he can't see it happen?

The name of Ruth Ellis still has power to dominate a discussion of this subject. She has the distinction of being the last woman we hanged, but there is a much better reason for us to remember her; the decision not to commute her sentence was probably the grossest single injustice done by the Home Office in modern times, which is quite a claim. But although they are forgotten, Peter Allen and Gwynne Evans, who were the last men to be

hanged, died just as uselessly, nothing and nobody was better off for their death.

There was a man who saw capital punishment carried out; he had even helped instigate it. But he didn't like it a bit:

... for Christ's sake pray for my wretched guilty soul. I am not a bad man... I meant no harm. I did not know what it would be like — I did not know what I was doing... You don't know; you haven't seen it; it is so easy to talk when you don't know. You made yourself with words; you damn yourself because it feels grand to throw oil on the flaming hell of your own temper. But when it is brought home to you; when you see the thing you have done, when it is blinding your eyes, tearing your heart, then... O God, take away this sight from me! O Christ, deliver me from this fire that is consuming me!

Do you think that Stogumber's feelings were caused only by his realization that St John was innocent? What if it had not been John but a common criminal — a murderer, no less? Would it then be "easy to talk when you don't know"? Perhaps we should restore not only hanging, but the public kind, with the spectators obliged to pull on the rope; many — most, I think — would at last be brought up inescapably against the reality of what we do when we hang a man, for all that we delegate the doing of it to an official appointed (from the throng of eager applicants) to do it for us. An accessory to murder is worse than an accessory to hanging, just as a murderer is worse than a hangman; but the greater evil does not extinguish the lesser. Nor is it the horrible barbarity of execution that is the worst thing about it; it is the cold, ordered, impersonal taking of a life, for the astonishingly irrelevant reason that the life in question has taken another.

Some countries have capital punishment and a very high murder rate — the United States, for instance. Some have no capital punishment and an almost negligible murder rate — Denmark, for instance. And vice versa twice over. Let us not waste time trying to extract a meaning from those facts. Let us just cleave to the great truth that the abhorrence of murder is deep within almost every one of us, and that it needs no gallows, no rope and no quicklime to keep that necessary and profound abhorrence alive. Or as Chesterton said:

We whom great mercy holds in fear,
Boast not the claim to cry,
Stricken of any mortal wrong,
"Lord, let this live man die!"
O mighty to arise and smile,
O mightier to forgive,
Sunburst that blinded Lazarus,
Lord, let this dead man live!

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Education: a Tory riposte to the right

An influential group of Conservatives who believe that right-wing influence on the government's education policies has been growing and ought to be diminished yesterday launched a centre-left pressure group, the Conservative Education Association.

Their targets are the Hillgate group, which last December published *Whose Schools? A radical manifesto*, and the Institute of Economic Affairs, which yesterday published *Our Schools — a radical policy*.

Whose Schools? proposed that all state schools should be removed from local authority control. *Our Schools*, which was written by Stuart Sexton, political adviser to Sir Keith Joseph when he was Education Secretary, advocated, not for the first time, the introduction of education vouchers which parents would be free to "spend" at any school they chose. Both manifestos favour the reintroduction of selection at 11-plus; both spring from the conviction that state education is in a state of crisis and urgently needs reforming; both lay most, if not all, of the blame on local education authorities.

The Conservative Education Association has been formed by five members of the party's national advisory committee on education, including Demetri Argyropoulos, a former chairman of the committee, and Philip Merr-

dale, chairman of Hampshire education committee and, significantly, the spokesman for all Conservative-controlled local education authorities.

The members of the group describe themselves as "one-nation Conservatives crusading for the improvement of public education". They declare firmly that they are in favour of comprehensive schools, complain that party discussion has been monopolised by the "hard right" and regard the proposals of the Hillgate group and the Institute of Economic Affairs as "unrealistic and dangerous".

The group's formation can be traced back to the applause that greeted the announcement by Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary, at the Tory conference last October that his proposed city technology colleges would be free from local government control. "Those cheers which made the rafters ring chilled the blood of some of us," Merrdale remarked yesterday.

"We don't agree with the view that you should check the whole barrel overboard because there are six rotten apples in it. The Conservatives have come to be seen as the hard men of education: anti-teacher, anti-local government, impatient with the whole business of public sector education."

It is not an unfair description of

either the Hillgate group or the Institute of Economic Affairs whose sponsors, among them Stuart Sexton, in fact overlap.

The voucher he calls for is an educational nostrum whose purpose includes John Stuart Mill and Professor Milton Friedman in Sexton's version it would lead to the "fading away" of local education authorities and the Department of Education.

All schools would be free to pay teachers and charge pupils whatever they liked. The vouchers would be taxable and worth, he suggests, £750 a year at primary schools, £1,200 at secondary and £1,600 in the sixth form. Parents would be allowed to top them up to meet the fees of independent schools.

The scheme's persistence, if limited, appeal seems to be based on the oldest promise of all: everyone a winner. It offers all parents what all parents want: a "good" education for their children. However, "good" is never defined, except that it is what parents want.

What parents want is something like five O levels followed, if possible, by two A levels. The first, by definition, is committed to the top 20 to 25 per cent of the ability range and the second to rather less. In other words, the scheme offers more than it can deliver.

It also holds out the prospect of

raising standards on the principle, as Sexton puts it, that the "free market" is more likely to be right than the bureaucratic decisions of decision makers.

That rests on the supposition that all parents know how their children should be educated and that vouchers would give them the power to secure it. There is no evidence for this, although there are any number of people who would like to believe it. As the Conservative Education Association says: "Parental choice alone is not a guarantee of high standards."

Much more certain is that vouchers would rapidly widen the gap between good schools and bad ones, significantly increasing inequality and social division. Children of parents who are poor, ignorant or unmotivated would be concentrated in "sinking" schools from which middle-class children, voucher in hand, had fled.

What most parents want most of all is a decent school in their own neighbourhood which will do the best possible for their children, an objective more likely to be achieved by reform than by anarchy or reaction. The question is who will win the war, for Mr Baker's ear?

John Clare
Education Correspondent

Digby Anderson

A health label that misleads

Tomorrow the Health Education Council is abolished. This quango has recently engaged in dubious campaigns hounding the population to healthier lives: dubious because it has presented, as scientific facts, opinions about what constitutes, for example, healthy eating, which many scientists would question, and because the effectiveness of the campaigns is also questionable.

The government's announced intention to transfer the HEC's work to a health education authority within the NHS was greeted with predictable bleating from the council's friends. The new authority would not be expert, they said. Neither was the HEC. It would not be independent, they said. By independence they meant the freedom to ride faddish hobby horses at public expense, but protected by quango status from parliamentary accountability.

It is unfortunate that the council became identified with its sillier activities. It had done useful, modest work: helping doctors, nurses and health visitors talk more effectively to patients about health and instilling curricular order in the way health was taught in schools: both based on the correct observation that people's health can be affected by the way they behave.

But this was too modest for some healthists who relegated school and NHS work in favour of mass campaigns, despite evidence, including the HEC's own, that mass campaigns were often ineffective. The campaigning style could be used to alert individuals, not to their own unhealthy habits but to elements in society which were "enemies" of their health. This radical health education became, intentionally or not, a cover for partisan views: predictably hostile to free enterprise, especially advertising, traditional morality, normal balanced eating and the government. The HEC's parting shot was a report criticizing the government for inequalities in health care.

Health education's early emphasis on individual responsibility for health was embarrassing individualism for later healthists. It would, for example, have been perfectly consistent with a move to private health insurance in which premiums were related to self-imposed health risks. The radicals found it much more congenial to attack "structural" causes of ill-health and move from balanced education to "health promotion" — that is, propaganda: the artful presentation of facts to promote one view or outcome. If they really do believe that structural factors — class divisions, unemployment, capitalism, all the old favourites — are the basic causes of ill-health, one wonders why they are taking large sums of public money in salaries for health education. Education cannot solve structural problems. That's the job

of revolutionary political movements. As for propaganda, that is the traditional enemy of education. Genuine health educationists should resent the damage done to their cause by the radicals.

The new authority looks even worse. Not only will it spend more, but its propaganda will be full-blown state propaganda. Nothing that Norman Fowler has said suggests that he knows, any more than the radicals, the difference between education and propaganda.

Reasonable people may differ over whether the state should fund health education. Much apparently persuasive information about healthy eating, sex, drinking and exercise is provided spontaneously by the huge market in magazines, books and television programmes. The market versions are not educational in that different opinions openly compete. Surely the much-despised media deserves the credit if the public have been scared away from Aids into safer sex. Yet, while state health and education systems last, it can be argued that the state should encourage in them educational aspects of health.

There should be no argument about state propaganda. A government opposed to intervention by nationalisation and regulation should oppose intervention by propaganda. Yet it has increased it. We have been urged to wear seat-belts, condoms and something bright at night, not to sniff glue or inject heroin and then to make sure our heroin needles are clean; reproved in nanny tones for smoking, drinking, eating proper food or letting off even those feeble fireworks reluctantly permitted for open sale, except in organized mass displays; exhorted to barricade our homes against burglars because the state can't protect them and alternately to use more and less electricity. To be sure, it's all for our own good and each campaign seems sensible at the time, just the thing to meet a national crisis or epidemic. Some don't even look like propaganda at first sight. But that is what they are, and later, less publicized and sober analysis shows many to be ineffective, even counter-productive. On most, there was quite adequate knowledge provided by non-state sources anyway.

It's a question of labelling. Health educationists keep on about the consumer's right to proper labelling on food and some have been obsessed with advertising. But it is health education itself which has been adulterated with hazardous additives and which is now misleadingly labelled. The government intends to perpetuate the mis-description. The new authority is not a health education authority, but a state propaganda department. If we must have it, it should be explicitly and honestly labelled.

The author is Director of the Social Affairs Unit.

Owen Hickey

Papering over the facts

During the MIS case in Sydney we heard something from the witness stand about civil servants' regard for the economy of truth: withholding from the reply part of what the question is directed to elicit. Civil servants have another way with truth too: leading a reply with detail surplus to requirement. It might be called the superfluity of truth.

Both practices serve the same defensive purpose, which is to deflect criticism, to put oneself in the clear, to smooth things over. It is not, or should not be, anything so harsh as to deceive. A good example of the superfluity technique, in a context of the utmost innocence, is buried in the written answers section of the Commons Hansard for January 26 and 27.

Mr Gareth Wardell, MP, with the interests of British recycled-paper makers at heart, put down a question to the heads of the largest departments of state asking what use they make of the recycled product for letterhead stationery and notepaper. The situation the question addresses is fairly simple. All departments get their stationery from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. The stationery office has a line in British recycled paper, but it is much more expensive than the usual stuff. So there are no takers.

The replies Mr Wardell received were not as simple as that. Embellishments were strung on several common threads: an implication that it is up to the stationery office, and if blame is in the air that is where the finger points; the advisability of appearing to be recycle-conscious; hints that the department will be right into it as soon as the price drops.

It is hard to believe that Cabinet ministers would themselves write replies to a question as near the bottom of any order of interest or importance. Yet some of the replies carry the stamp of the appropriate personality, which says something about the devotion of their civil servants.

The Prime Minister's reply strikes a patriotic note — "the Herts used in my office are all British made" — though she has to admit that none of them is wholly recycled. However, in many kinds of the stationery she uses there is a recycled element: something several ministers fall back on: "Listen to the Foreign Office."

spelling it out. "First-grade letterhead stationery, used for correspondence of record, is British but at present contains no recycled material. Other letterheadings are what the British paper contains up to 20 per cent recycled material. Newspapers are purchased from the HMSO and may contain proportions of recycled waste."

Mr Walker at Energy and Mr Rifkind in Scotland have nothing to declare in relation to letterheadings and notepaper. But their envelopes, they volunteer, are of the Wardell sort. He did not ask about envelopes.

Defence, in the person of Mr Archibald Hamilton, sent the longest and most percentage-strewn reply. The ministry had been offered, and sampled, British-made paper with 100 per cent recycled waste content, but rejected it primarily because it was up to 125 per cent dearer than the normal product. Mr Hamilton goes on to claim Browne points for notepaper. The bulk of notepaper used in this ministry come from surplus computer paper or printing off-cuts.

Mr Butcher at Trade and Industry replied: "I shall reply as soon as possible." Next day he got into his stride. Not much joy as regards his actual use of the stuff, but at least as January 22 he had chaired a conference which explored the scope for extending production, supply and use of UK printing and writing papers containing recycled fibre. Public sector bodies were one target. "My department will be part of the exercise, which will examine whether an increase in the use of such paper can be justified on economic grounds." Well done, Mr Butcher. With one eye on the ball and one on the Treasury, he is worth a place in any team.

The prize for the straight line, deviating neither towards economy nor superfluity of truth, is shared by Mr Jopling at Agriculture and Mr Hurd at the Home Office. Mr Jopling just says his department does not use stationery made from recycled paper for reasons of economy. Mr Hurd would have won the prize outright with his exactly adequate: "None." But he spoiled the effect by stating that the price is uncompetitive compared with general purpose paper of suitable quality. Excuses, excuses.



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THE MARKETS WARN

Politicians playing the seductive tunes of protectionism to the gallery of public opinion received a loud raspberry yesterday from the financial markets in the pit. There could scarcely have been a more graphic demonstration of the perils of restraint on trade than yesterday's stock market jitters around the world. Wall Street was worst affected but most major markets were in retreat including London where the Financial Times Index closed 38.4 down at 1582.2.

Cracks in markets, even of this size, can easily be repaired if the conditions are right. But after the long upward progress investor confidence is bound to be vulnerable to any change in perceptions of the underlying economic prospects. Nothing is more upsetting than the possibility that the strong growth in world trade might be summarily interrupted by a trade war.

In London there are other factors also at work. The view is growing that for the time being the 1/2 point interest rate reductions which both preceded and followed the Budget are enough. The Conservatives no longer look as though they can count on being re-elected with an overall majority as certainly as they did a fortnight ago. And the brief period of calm in the foreign exchange markets secured by the Paris accord in February is being threatened by storms of increasing intensity. Although the focus has switched back from sterling to the dollar, the pound seldom flourishes in times of uncertainty and so it is proving, taking the currency's value overall.

Trade wars and currency wars have strong links as already been seen earlier this year. The intransigence of the US in the course of January over sales of maize to the EEC was not unconnected with its pressure for an expansion of domestic demand in Germany to help reduce the large US/German trade imbalance.

Trade deficits can be reduced either by devaluation of the deficit country's currency or by fiscal expansion in the surplus country, where this is not inflationary. The dollar has already fallen to a level which is very painful for industry both in Germany and Japan but the US trade deficit, although it may be levelling out, does not yet show much sign of falling.

In January the US was tempted by the protectionist bludgeon to try to obtain faster

progress in reducing its deficit with the EEC and with Germany in particular. In the last few days it has picked up the same weapon against Japan with its action on micro-chips. On this occasion the protectionist message is being delivered at the same time as the dollar is falling rather than as a veiled threat to allow the currency to fall further.

It is perfectly understandable that a country with a large trade deficit should be touchy about reciprocal trading agreements. Britain also has a deficit, and ministers recently have not been backward in using the language of protectionism. Politicians unconstrained by the responsibilities of office have been even more explicit.

But treading the tight-rope of trade restrictions is a dangerous exercise. A policy intended simply as a bargaining counter can easily undermine international confidence and lead to the very inhibition of world trade which it is designed to break down. Everyone — both surplus and deficit countries — loses from protectionism. So far this truth seems to be clearer to financial markets than it is to politicians.

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WORK, HOPE AND WELFARE

The Government's Restart scheme has had greater success in bringing down unemployment than most people ever expected. By taking the initiative and arranging interviews with those who have been without work for six months or more, the scheme has restored the motivation to find a job among many who seemed to have lost it. Restart is no miracle cure, but it has at least generated hope — which must be a prerequisite of reducing unemployment.

One of the most important challenges now facing the Government is how to build on this success when setting out its proposals for a third term in office. If the first ingredient is hope, the second is to raise the expectations in the rest of society of those who are out of work. It is common ground among educationalists that one of the crucial factors in determining achievement in schools is the level of expectations — of pupils by teachers, and of teachers by their heads. Higher expectations of those receiving unemployment benefit may be equally important in helping the unemployed.

Last summer the Prime Minister expressed interest in the American system of Workfare under which welfare recipients are obliged to undertake some form of community work. Speaking in the House of Commons yesterday, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, reflected the Government's continuing interest in this approach.

Workfare is by no means a homogeneous system. It varies considerably from state to state, both as to the type of

work, the rate of payment and the degree of compulsion. In its most typical form any kind of public sector work may be undertaken, remuneration is below union rates and there is no element of voluntarism. It is, however, or so it would seem, positively preferred by those out of work to receiving unconditional handouts.

It has to be recognised, however, that the culture in a country where unemployment benefit ceases to be paid after 12 months except to those with dependent children is different from that of the UK. Workfare was always unlikely to cross the Atlantic unaltered. Any British government that considers it would do well to proceed with caution and build on the measures already in place.

Benefit is not unconditional under present law. Beneficiaries must be "available for work" and not refuse unreasonably to take a job on offer. The interpretation of this is currently left to local officers who will usually take a generous view. There is scope for tightening up for work test. But the reality is that there will not be enough suitable jobs all over the country to put every redundant labourer or music teacher back into the kind of employment for which he or she is qualified.

Where jobs are not available on the open market there is a good case for asking those who have been out of work for some time to make some contribution towards working for the community. It would help those without a job retain their self-respect, keep them in touch with the world of work

and go some way towards fulfilling all the unmet needs at which the Government's critics are constantly pointing.

Organising work programmes for everyone unemployed for over six months, say, would be a much bigger task than the present Community Programme. It would also require greater flexibility from the unions. But, given the will, there are plenty of jobs to be done ranging from child-minding and help for the elderly to environmental work and some forms of construction. It would not be unreasonable to require that people without work spend one or two days a week doing some of the jobs which need doing in return for benefits.

No one could fairly call such a proposal "slave labour" since the unemployed would draw a full week's benefit in return for a day or two's work. It would grow naturally out of the Community Programme which has already developed expertise in setting up work programmes and pays at going rates, in most cases for just one or two days work a week.

Some will object that this would contravene the contributory principle under which unemployment benefit is paid as an insurance benefit only to those with a proper contribution record. It would certainly change the terms of the insurance policy, but that happens all the time. The important thing is that it might reduce the present waste of national energy and talent represented by three million out of work while helping those without a job to retain both their self-respect and their employability.

THE EXAMPLE OF MARY

Observing the Church of England's present predicament over female ordination, with theological imperatives pointing both ways, a group of Roman Catholics have raised their own banner in support of women priests, not just for Anglicans but also for themselves. Fears that the gradual warming of relations between the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church might be jeopardized by women's ordination have exerted no insignificant influence over the debate so far. Their message was that this is not necessarily the case.

A new encyclical letter on the Virgin Mary might seem in unlikely place to look for even further Catholic ammunition. It is illuminating, however, to quote (albeit not in this context) one passage from its encyclical, his definition of the nobility of femininity. The loftiest sentiments of which the human heart is capable, the self-offering totality of love, the strength that is capable of bearing the greatest pangs, limitless fidelity and selfless devotion to work; the ability to combine penetrating intuition with words of support and encouragement. . . or that is no bad specification of the qualities needed in a priest and pastor, of whatever sex.

tended exploration of sexual imagery in the life of the church and in Christian doctrine, a similar method of argument to that sometimes employed to justify an exclusively male priesthood. No doubt the Pope was not thinking of women priests at all when he wrote it. But what emerges is an idea of the church described in essentially female metaphors, primarily that of the church as "mother", and even a hint of the church as "womb".

Extrapolated much further, and the conclusion might be startling: an all-female priesthood, perhaps. But it must be clear that an institution which wishes to have such a female-maternal image for itself is going about it in a strange way if it excludes women from its officership and leadership. The image of the Roman Catholic Church is in fact, overwhelmingly masculine.

There is a paradox here of which the Pope seems not to be aware. So far the internal Anglican debate has paid not much attention to the Virgin Mary, lacking, except among those of the highest churchmanship, much interest in her. But her absence from the Anglican pantheon is sometimes raised as an explanation of the alienation of which church women complain, the sense of being

regarded as second class Christians to which female ordination is sometimes recommended as a remedy. Moreover, the received Anglican perception of the cult of the Virgin Mary in Latin (and Greek) Christianity is of a form of indoctrination used by males to keep women in their place.

It may have been used that way in the past, but such tactics receive no endorsement from Pope John Paul II. It is not Mary's docile domesticity he commends as the universal example, but her active participation in the mission of her Son, exalting it to the highest level. It is not easy to see how the Pope would choose to argue that one so exemplary as a model of Christian faith, which is how he speaks of her, was at the same time excluded from church office by her sex.

The Pope commends Mary as an inspiration to the ecclesiological movement, and in drafting his encyclical he has clearly been at pains not to let her become a source of even further doctrinal disagreement. Perhaps she is even more relevant than he envisages, for further consideration of her significance, on both sides, could begin to put the divisive issue of female ordination in a better context.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Implications of equal pay ruling

From the Director General of the Engineering Employers' Federation

Sir, The Equal Pay Act 1970 was introduced to prevent discrimination in pay between men and women employed on like work or work rated as equal by job evaluation. It was later amended so that work normally or exclusively performed by women could not be systematically undervalued compared with other, but different, work performed by men — hence the provision requiring equal pay for work of equal value.

Whatever one may think about the practicability of determining whether or not different jobs are of equal value (and reconciling the outcome with the judgement of the labour market), it is clear that the underlying intention was still to outlaw discrimination in rates of pay based simply on sex.

It is difficult to know what to make of the Appeal Court ruling, reported on your front page today (March 26), in the Pickstone case. Here was Mrs Pickstone performing a warehouse job alongside men and receiving the same rate of pay as them. This seems to me, *ipso facto*, to show that there was no discrimination simply between men and women.

The fact that there was another, higher-paid job elsewhere in the establishment, also performed by men and women on equal but higher rates of pay, may have been an irritation to Mrs Pickstone or have seemed to her an injustice.

If so, both she and her male and female colleagues could have sought a re-rating of their job through negotiation or collective bargaining. This indeed would have been the only possible course, had all the persons in both the jobs concerned been of the same sex, whether male or female.

It seems to me a travesty of the intentions and principles of equal pay legislation to use it to secure the re-rating of a job performed by both men and women in relation to another job, also performed by both men and women.

The consequence of the ruling appears to be that any person, by using equal pay legislation, can now compel a tribunal enquiry into his/her remuneration as compared with that of some other person, provided only that the other person is of the opposite sex.

The ramifications of such a ruling are endless, confusing and expensive. At the least, it represents an entirely unexpected and unintended statutory lever which can be used to lift pay artificially out of relationship with the labour market — and thus a development that will work against the expansion of employment.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES MCFARLANE,
Director General,
Engineering Employers' Federation,
Broadway House,
Tottenham, N16 9JL.
March 26.

Church in Hungary

From Mr John Eibner

Sir, In his otherwise accurate article on the Catholic Church in Hungary (March 19) Richard Bassett somewhat understates the closeness of the relationship between the Hierarchy and the State. He suggests that the Church "may be bordering on collaboration", and states that the bishops have "toed the Government's line on a number of religious and political issues".

In Hungary the relationship is rightly described as an "alliance" (coined) by representatives of both the State and the Catholic Bishops' Conference. This alliance requires the Church to support all aspects of the Government's political programme, save the promotion of atheism.

In a recent testimonial to the late Cardinal Lékai one senior bishop stated that the Prime Minister always supported the "social aims and the socio-political requirements of the Hungarian socialist government". Your correspondent stands on firm ground when he reports that the newly appointed Primate, Archbishop László Puskás, is widely expected to follow the political course of his predecessor.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN EIBNER,
Keston College,
Heathfield Road,
Keston,
Kent.
March 20.

Type-casting

From Mr Charles Fyffe

Sir, There are many pangrams much shorter than "Pack my box with five dozen liquor jugs" (letter, March 21) which, incidentally, was used well before the last war by American Type Founders for specimen settings. Tony Augarde in *The Oxford Guide to Word Games* (Oxford University Press, 1986) gives eighteen of 31 letters or less, including seven of only 26 letters.

A small number of letters is reduced the sentences become more and more nonsensical and difficult, often requiring a gloss and relying on obscure un-English words such as "cwrth" or "goph", names and initials — "Mr Jock, TV quiz PhD, bags few lynx"; or, in one ingenious example, Roman numbers: "XV quick nymphs beg fiord waltz". Both these examples are from *Another Almanac of Words at Play* by Willard R. Espy (Andre Deutsch, 1981).

The number of ways the 26 letters of our alphabet can be combined is 403,290 followed by 21 noughts. Surely the perfect pangram is possible.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES FYFFE,
52 Holmdale Road, NW6,
March 22.

Local purchasing

From the Director-General of the Institute of Purchasing and Supply

Sir, Martin Fletcher (March 23) was right to draw attention to the "neglectful attitude of many local authorities towards purchasing and supply management. In far too many councils purchasing is fragmented between different departments or left to individuals who lack the proper professional training. This is particularly

Extradition law

From Dr Christopher Vincenzi

Sir, Your editorial entitled "An Englishman abroad" (March 23) seems to have been based on a misconception. There is a fundamental difference between deportation and extradition.

Deportation is intended to enable a state to get an undesirable alien out of its territory. Extradition is supposed to facilitate the handing over of a suspected offender by one state to another, usually on the basis of limitations laid down both by an extradition treaty and the law of both requesting and receiving states.

These restrictions are essential if individuals are not to be arbitrarily shunted about from one state to another without proper evidence or from improper

'Teach-first' no answer

From Professor Lord Wedderburn of Charlton, FBA

Sir, The proposals of Mr Ball, Warden of Keble College (report, March 26) are generous, but should be resisted. The offer to turn Oxford and a majority of other universities into "teaching-first" institutions, cut off from funded research, is no answer to the current inadequacy of finance for education.

Even if the number of university and polytechnic students could be marginally increased (a most commendable objective in a country where post-school education is, unlike so many other countries, still regarded as a privilege) the result would be to add yet another layer to the class cake, with few working-class students entering the new, elite colleges. Moreover, teaching at Keble and the other workhouse institutions would assuredly suffer from the absence of leading scholars pursuing advanced research.

The alternative policy is in everyone's interests — including Oxford's: to continue the fight to reverse the policies of the last eight years and build a properly-funded, democratic post-school system, universities and polytechnics together, in the interests both of our students and of scholarship.

Yours sincerely,
WEDDERBURN OF CHARLTON,
29 Woodside Avenue,
Highgate, N6.
March 26.

surprising when, in recent years, many authorities have had to take painful budgetary decisions involving a reduction in services or the cancellation of planned improvements.

In this Institute's experience the introduction of professional purchasing management can bring dramatic benefits and give rise to policy options which might not otherwise have been available.

Yours faithfully,
IAN GROUNDWATER,
Director-General,
Institute of Purchasing and Supply,
Easton House,
Easton on the Hill,
Stamford,
Lincolnshire.
March 26.

Bees as pests

From Mrs Sally Ross

Sir, Dr Richey's indignation (March 23) on behalf of the honey bees is praiseworthy, but of little comfort to those who find their presence a nuisance.

My daughter's bedroom has a fine-mesh air vent linked to a very tall chimney. Honey bees annually build a hive midway down the stack, although a cord has been fixed to the opening. Her windows must be kept closed as the bees circulate industriously. Successive beekeepers have failed so far to seduce the creatures to hives strategically placed in the garden.

Last summer I was regretfully forced to call a pest controller and they were destroyed but I am sure they will return.

Yours faithfully,
SALLY ROSS,
Meadowcroft,
Middlefield Lane,
Hagley, near Stourbridge,
Worcestershire.
March 23.

moves. The American courts were right in deciding that if the British police could not produce sufficient evidence to make out a *prima facie* case for his extradition, the return of John Fleming should not be secured by the backdoor of deportation.

It now looks as if Mr Fleming's arrival in the UK has been achieved by the very doubtful practice of the British and US Governments "persuading" small countries not to receive him. The US court would then have had no option but to send him, in accordance with international law, to his country of origin.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER VINCENZI,
Principal Lecturer in Law,
The Polytechnic, Queensgate,
Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.
March 26.

London as seat for the WEU

From Mr John Wilkinson, MP for Ruislip, Northwood (Conservative)

Sir, The Foreign Secretary made a most significant speech on European security in Brussels on March 16, in which he rightly stressed that "a more effective WEU (Western European Union) must bring more not less strength to the Alliance". However, Sir Geoffrey Howe could have made his case even more compelling.

Concentrating the activities of WEU in one place may be desirable, but it is important to choose the right place. Co-location of the WEU council, assembly and specialist agencies in Brussels would make the organisation an appendage of Nato, which could hardly please France or even be worth while by duplicating some of the work of the Eurogroup and of the Conference of National Armaments Directors.

The right choice would be London or Paris, but preferably London. The seat of the council is already here and its permanent representatives are the ambassadors of the member countries to the Court of St James's. Why deliberately diminish Britain's influence by decamping the council to Brussels?

The County Hall building opposite the Palace of Westminster and Whitehall offers exactly what is required for an ideal single permanent headquarters of WEU. Furthermore, London has always lacked a great European institution.

The old council chamber of the defunct GLC offers a worthy home for the parliamentary assembly than the Conseil Economique et Social hemicycle in Paris. There is ample office space for the clerks of the assembly, council secretariat and specialist agency officials.

Coming from the most Atlanticist of the European members of Nato, such an initiative could not possibly be seen, in Geoffrey Smith's emotive words (March 20) as "ganging up" against the Americans. To the contrary, they would be pleased to see the Europeans being so positive at last.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WILKINSON (Chairman,
Committee on Scientific Technological and Aerospace Questions, Assembly of WEU),
House of Commons.
March 21.

Thirty years on

From Mr M. J. Craddock

Sir, Monday March 23, BBC1, nine o'clock television news: the first words of the main item were: "Today Mrs Thatcher flew to Europe . . .", to describe a flight across the Channel to France.

Tuesday, March 24, (Times) leader on the thirtieth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome you assert: "We are the Europeans now". Who is right?

Yours faithfully,
M. J. CRADDOCK,
Lancashire Polytechnic,
Preston, Lancashire.
March 25.

Benefit of doubt

From Dr G. A. Lee

Sir, Where does Mr Peter Ustinov (March 19) get the idea that Renaissance cardinals thought that the earth was flat? The Church never taught any such thing. Aristotle knew that the earth was round; so did Ptolemy; so did Dante. The last-named imagines himself and Virgil descending to the centre of the earth, at the bottom of Hell, and climbing up to Purgatory on the other side of the globe from Jerusalem.

Further, Dante wrote a Latin treatise to settle the question as to whether the sea could ever be higher than the land adjacent, and concluded that the answer was no. In his *Convivio*, he hypothesised that there might (for the sake of illustrating a certain point) be cities at the two poles of the earth. The Church never condemned Dante as a heretic!

The real controversy, over the central position of the earth in the Ptolemaic universe, arose later than 1492. I have no doubt that Columbus was as sure of that as any cardinal.

Yours faithfully,
G. A. LEE,
University of Nottingham,
Department of Industrial Economics, Accountancy and Insurance,
University Park, Nottingham.
March 19.

Test-tube ruling

From the Reverend Canon David Stevens

Sir, The Bishop of Birmingham (March 19) uses the Vatican's "test-tube ruling" to draw a distinction between "ethical" and "dogmatic" divisions amongst Christians.

Surely there should be no such dichotomy if the Christian revelation is to be seen as a coherent whole?

It is the lack of this wholeness and congruity between faith and practice which is a root cause of the present unhappy divisions within today's Church of England.

Thus, for example, the opinions of the bishop on *in-vitro* fertilisation, whilst interesting and liable to be scientifically well informed, could not carry, very likely, even in the General Synod and are probably not shared by a majority of English Anglicans today.

Yours etc,
DAVID STEVENS,
3 Chapel Street,
Belton in Rutland, Leicestershire.
March 27.



ON THIS DAY

MARCH 31 1786

In the second year of its existence (the paper then known as the *Universal Register* relied for its foreign news largely on letters from private individuals living abroad. The good prelate here commemorated was Charles Prudentius de Beccadelloni, native of Nantes; he was appointed bishop in 1787 and died in 1789.

A PRELATE OF UNCOMMON PIETY

To the EDITOR of the UNIVERSAL REGISTER.

Sir, The following extract of a letter from a clergyman in the South of France, you may, perhaps, think not unworthy a place in your paper. After giving a particular description of the city of Nîmes, she goes on thus:

"THE present inhabitants of Nîmes are a very frivolous and insignificant set of people; eternally occupied about trifles, at those seasons and hours that they are not employed in their business. I speak this, as to the generality of them; for there are a select number who are really pious, and think and act very differently from the great multitude, and have during the week religious meetings. Nîmes and its environs contain about 60,000 souls, half of whom are Protestants. The meeting is held at about a mile from the town, in the open air. On Sunday when we were there, the congregation consisted of upward of 13,000 persons; yet there was so much order and decency observed, that no one's devotion was disturbed.

"The elder Minister preached that day; he is a venerable old man, has been with them upward of 45 years, and in his time hath suffered innumerable hardships. Yet he told a Gentleman lately, that he was at that time happier than he is now in the calm and quiet state of the church, and more alive in his religious duties. He is held in high esteem for his primitive simplicity, and laments the degeneracy of the church, and the negligence that are creeping into it, and also the great loss that the Protestants have sustained lately by the death of the late Bishop of Nîmes, who was a prelate distinguished for his uncommon piety (without the least tincture of bigotry) and universal benevolence; his income was not very large, half of it he gave regularly to the poor, and out of the remaining half he distributed so largely to all in distress, that his intentions, or several, once told him, that he did not make him a sufficient allowance for his table, that he must increase it or he could not go on. The good Bishop replied, I can easily settle the matter: diminish the superfluities of my table, and you will find the sum enough; for, believe me, I cannot withhold from my neighbour his due for the pleasure of the table and afterwards be ordered only one or two dishes to be served, altho' the French (in a much less elevated rank in life) have great variety. I must not omit another anecdote of this good man, as I know it will please you. There are various branches of the silk manufactory at Nîmes, which employ a prodigious number of hands. The weavers cannot work when the frost continues for any length of time, as the charka freezes. A number of these poor creatures, who had large families, were driven to great distress from this circumstance in the year 1776, and application was made for them to his Lordship, who enquired of the Gentlemen if they had made a list of the most distressed, and was answered in the affirmative. How many of the Protestants, says he, have you in it? None, or several. We suppose you would think it proper to relieve the Catholics. And how dare you, Gentlemen, to suppose me void of feeling for any of my distressed brethren? they are more in number than the others. You have, therefore, with all your charity, overlooked the greatest objects of it. For shame, Sir, alter your list, and set down the Protestants first; my charity ought to be warm to them, since you're so cold; true charity knows of no distinction. You may be sure the Gentlemen went away confounded with this reprimand. He desired that a very small sum might be expended on his funeral, as he left the little he had to the poor, he said, it was robbing them. He built a neat, plain church just before he died. Every body here were for a time inconsolable for this pious man, and now speak of him with tears."

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Grand tours, new places

Tourists are constantly accused of being hopelessly habit-bound. Pastures new seem to attract almost everyone except the average holidaymaker, so it comes as no great surprise that the first visitors of all to Italy settled, as so many of us do, for the riviera coast which straddles the French and Italian border.

That was about a million years ago, and these guests were not only the first examples of human travellers in Italy but the first to leave traces of human existence in Europe as a whole. Given that the pattern continues, it is reasonable to ask why *homo erectus*, or *Pithecanthropus*, chose what is now Liguria as his first contact with Europe.

The answer is simple. He had left his native north Africa across what was then the land-bridge for Europe where he found the continent in the grips of the Ice Age and could only find a climate to permit survival on the Ligurian coast.

More important today is the devastating claim that Italy possesses something like two-thirds of the monuments and works of art belonging

Italy is reappraising its tourist policy. New cultural itineraries and smaller artistic centres are starting to assume greater significance.

ing to western civilization, which explains why Italy had been for centuries the greatest tourist attraction in the world.

That Spain has overtaken Italy in the number of visitors, even if Italy retains its traditional lead, is one reason why the Italians are now reviewing their tourist policy. Another reason is the decline last year of tourists from the United States.

The terrorist attack on Fiumicino airport in December 1985, the US bombardment of Libya, a consequence of which was the launching of a Libyan missile against Italy's southernmost island of Lampedusa, plus the hijacking of the Italian cruise ship *Achille Lauro* by Arab terrorists, all

helped to convince the Americans that for now it was best to stay home. The damage was grave, especially for the big hotels in cities such as Rome, Venice and Florence. In the summer of 1986 it was estimated that Rome's leading hotels were working at about one-third of their capacity. And as problems grew rather than decreased in the Mediterranean area the outlook was not promising.

Measures to undo the damage were taken promptly. A tripartite commission was set up by Alitalia, the state tourist authority and the national federation of hoteliers with a substantial budget to devise ways to persuade Americans that Italy was still able to provide safe and pleasant holidays.

But the plight of the big hotels in Italy's leading tourist centres was not just due to US defection. For centuries now the flagships of Italian tourism have been Rome, Florence and Venice. But like cities the familiar over, they suffer from the familiar urban problems of noise, crowds, traffic and general stress. And it now seems that the traditional holiday stay of a few days in these cultural centres has lost its attraction. This

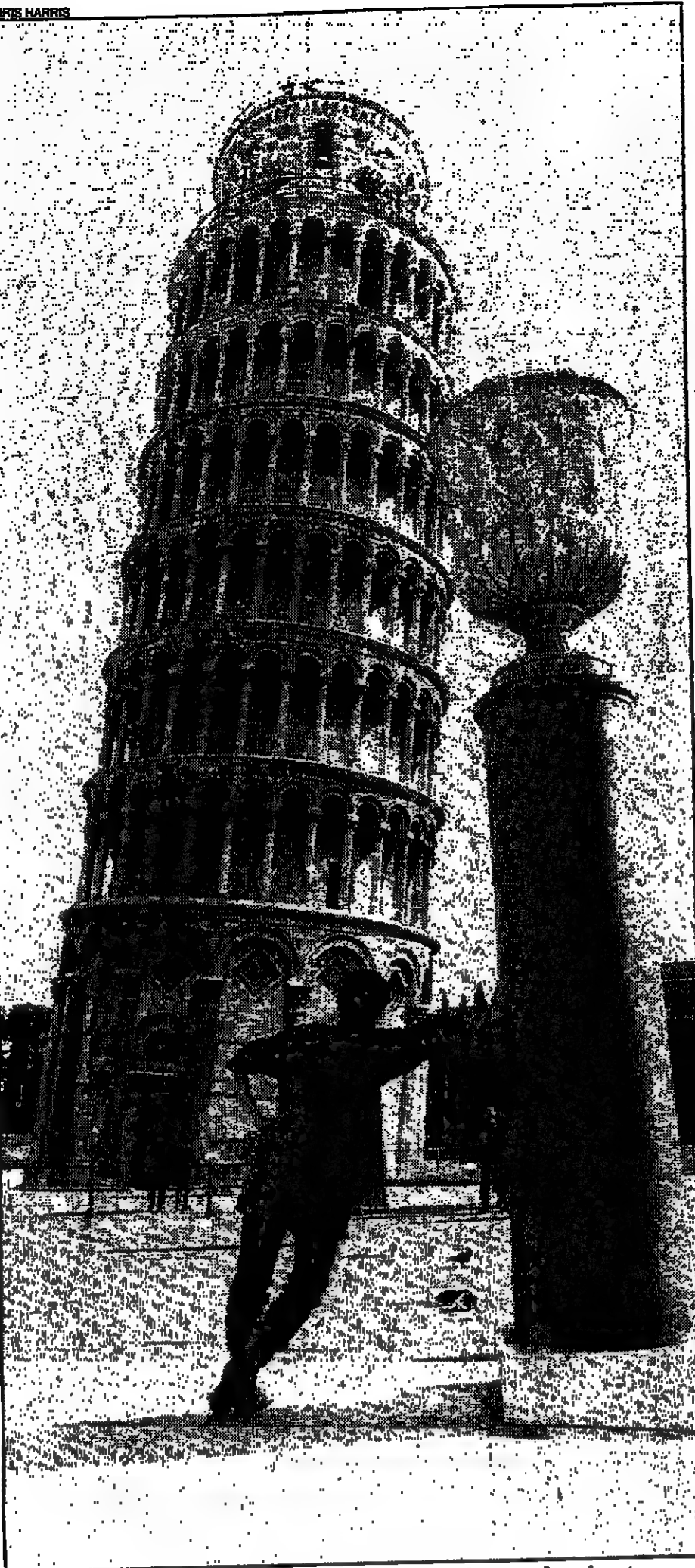
explains why the seaside and mountain resorts have kept their customers. And it accounts for the promising start to the government's plan of devising cultural itineraries which include smaller centres of artistic interest while encouraging visitors to strike out on their own instead of being part of a highly organized group, suffering from the stress of the cities, however much they managed to fit in.

In the south, new efforts are being made to decide how best to utilize the natural attractions of the area, while avoiding the obvious drawbacks of a somewhat introverted society, by designing tourist-villages of a kind to attract an international public.

The new idea, launched last year, of organizing a festival in the Eolian Islands is made doubly attractive by the fact that events, cultural and sporting, start in the spring and continue for the rest of the year.

This should counter another example of the habit-ridden attitude of the average tourist who not only tends to go to reasonably familiar places, but always at the same time of the year.

Peter Nicholls



A 12th century miscalculation: Bonanno's famous leaning tower

On the level about Pisa

This June promises to be fun in Pisa, a city beginning to fidget under the elongating shadow of its leaning tower. Pisa has good reason for wanting to adjust the touristic tilt away from its tower towards the town and the month-long festival *Giugno Pisano*.

Last year the number of overnight visitors fell by 6.86 per cent to 450,331. This is bad news, for Pisa is not an industrial city but a small, medieval university town of 104,200 people.

The river Arno seems to exert an indefinable, hypnotic influence over the town, creating a languid, almost melancholic air which has piqued the world's greatest poets. It prompted Shelley to write:

"And evening's breath, wandering here and there over the quivering surface of the stream, wakes not one ripple from its summer dream."

But as Dr Gelliana Berti, president of the Ente Provinciale per il Turismo, says: "Pisa literally sleeps on the Arno." It needs its tourists.

The city is weary of being a transit stop for one million visitors a year who flock to the immaculate, turf-fringed and justifiably named Piazza dei Miracoli to climb Bonanno's tower. This stop takes on average two hours, and the entry fees do not go to the city, but to the church organization *Opera delle Primazie Pisane*.

The opening of the new Museo dell'Opera del Duomo

which houses the piazza's holy art treasures in a restored 13th-century cloister, under the lean of the tower, may help slow down this departure.

"We have no fears about the tower, we are certain it will fall; it is time to start promoting other things — like the sun in February and the umbrella-pinned Pisan shore," says Dr Berti. With Lire 1 billion to spend and a variety of colorful events, June is thought a good time to begin.

Pisa was a great naval port until silting in the 15th century left it six kilometres inland. In 1063 the Pisans and Genoese fleets drove the Saracens from Sardinia, and in 1063 the Pisan navy sacked Muslim Palermo. Pisa began to rival Venetian seapower.

This maritime rivalry lingers on, in the Regatta of the Ancient Maritime Republics re-enacted each year, in turn, in Venice, Genoa, Anagni and this June in Pisa.

Giugno Pisano starts at 4pm on Sunday June 7, when a cortège from the four cities in medieval costume, proceeds to the Arno to compete in a two kilometre boat race.

This is followed by all-night dancing in the 15th century Piazza dei Cavalieri, a romantic setting in front of Vasari's Palazzo degli Anziani.

La Luminara, one of Pisa's most beautiful occasions, fol-

lows on June 16 after 9pm to celebrate the feast day of Pisa's patron saint, *Raffaello*. Pisa is plunged into darkness and every building is illuminated with tiny candles.

The next day brings the regatta of St Raffaele. But the climax of *Giugno Pisano* is the *Gioco del Ponte*, the bridge game on June 28. According to tradition, 750 of its chunkiest men in medieval fighting dress form two teams, the



Pisans believe the tower will fall and it is time to promote other attractions says Judith Parsons

Tramontane and Mezzogiorno, representing the town north and south of the river.

A huge trolley on Ponte di Mezzo is pushed back and forth until one team is driven back in humiliation. The *Gioco*, now in the professional hands of Signor Davide Guadagni, will be seen on huge video screens along the river, accompanied by music by Benjamin Britten. With film director Valentino Orsini shooting the entire proceed-

ings, the spectacular promises to be an epic.

In September, the world's top ballet dancers will perform at night, for satellite television, in Piazza del Duomo against the backdrop of the leaning tower.

However, the free-leaning days of Pisa's tower are numbered for safety reasons, and rather like crying wolf after centuries of argument, no one is prepared to believe intervention is at hand.

The Ministry of Public Works, responsible for the safety of the tower, set up a commission on April 12 1983, to investigate the best course of action. Its proposals have now been submitted, and an executive plan is before the *consiglio superiore*, whose final go-ahead is all it takes to release Lire 40-50 billion to intervene.

As Professor Luca Sanpaolesi of Pisa university's Istituto Scienza Costruzioni and member of the commission says: "It has all the characteristics of being serious this time. If the Ministry can let it slip a year or two until 1988-9 it will, but for safety's sake it is forced to intervene." Visitors be forewarned.

The problem began in 1174 when Bonanno built his tower on sand and miscalculated the necessary width of the base. According to Professor San-

paolesi, the weight of the tower on sand combined with a lack of stability in the narrow base, produced a sinking, rotating movement which caused the tower's centre of gravity to shift.

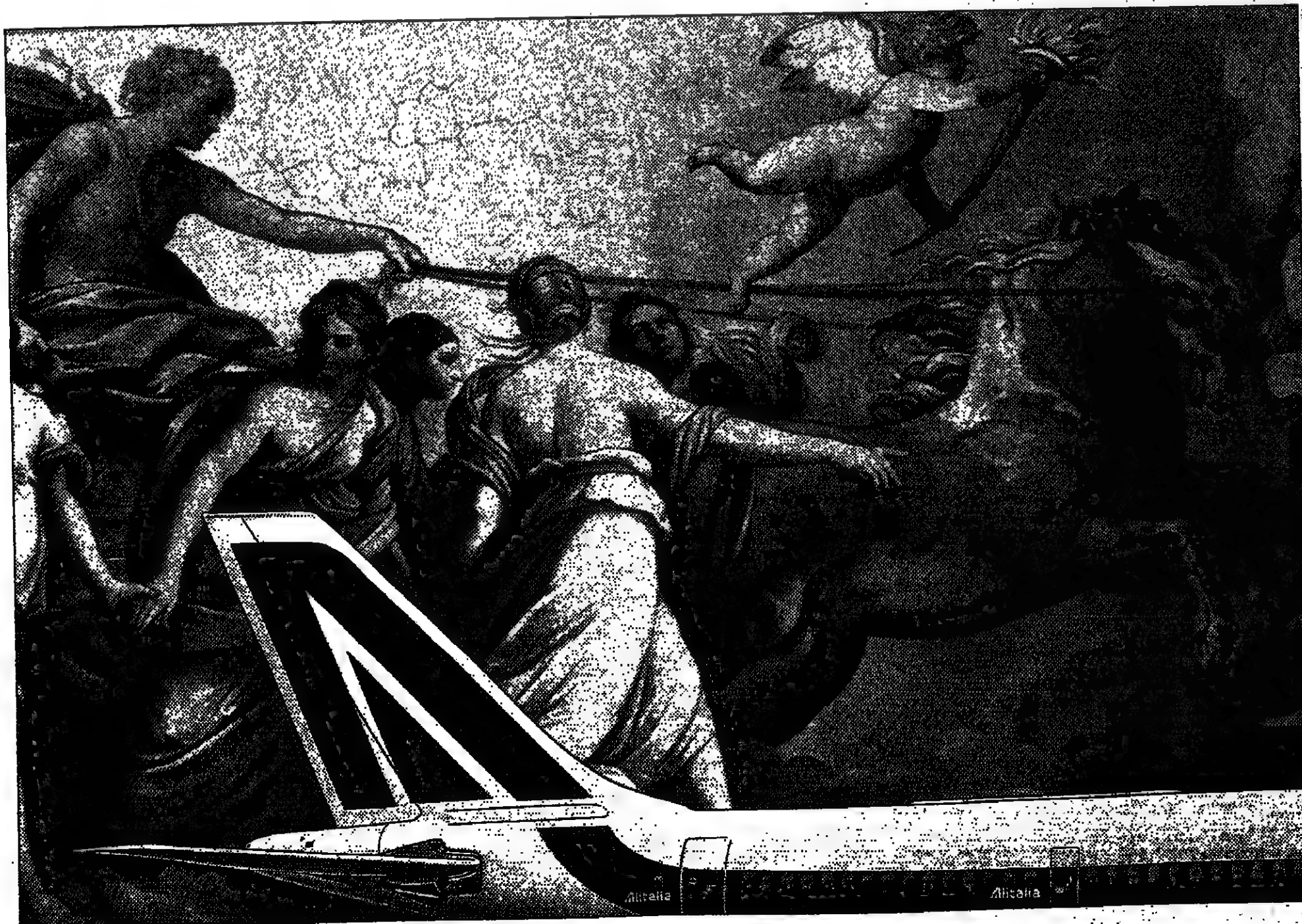
It is now more than two metres below ground level and the top is about five metres off centre, at a five degrees and 11-minute inclination. Amusing as it may be to stand 179 feet up clinging dizzily to the tower's leaning side, there is dangerous pressure of 11 kilograms per square centimetre on the stone of the tilting side. "It is absolute ignorance to say leave it as it is," says Professor Sanpaolesi.

Signor Gabriele di Palma, director general of the Ministry of Public Works' financial commission for intervention on the tower, and responsible for the final go-ahead says: "The tower is like a sick person. We have two options, a soft or a hard one."

The soft option, to prevent further leaning will involve the erection of unsightly supports around the tower and underground anchors around the base which may straighten it slightly. This option will require two or three years' observation.

If it does not work the hard option must be tried — placing concrete supports beneath the tower at a depth of 60 metres to reach below the sandy strata. "It is one of the biggest problems in the technical world today," says Professor Sanpaolesi.

A tale of the unexpected.



Alitalia is one of the most successful airlines in the world, with capacity up by a remarkable 30% since 1979. It is now the fourth largest European airline in terms of turnover, and the third largest in terms of profit.

With 98 aircraft worldwide, Alitalia has one of the largest and most modern fleets of any other airline in Europe.

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For our new Summer '87 schedule we will be continuing with our four regular flights a day from Heathrow to Milan, and we're still first out and last back.

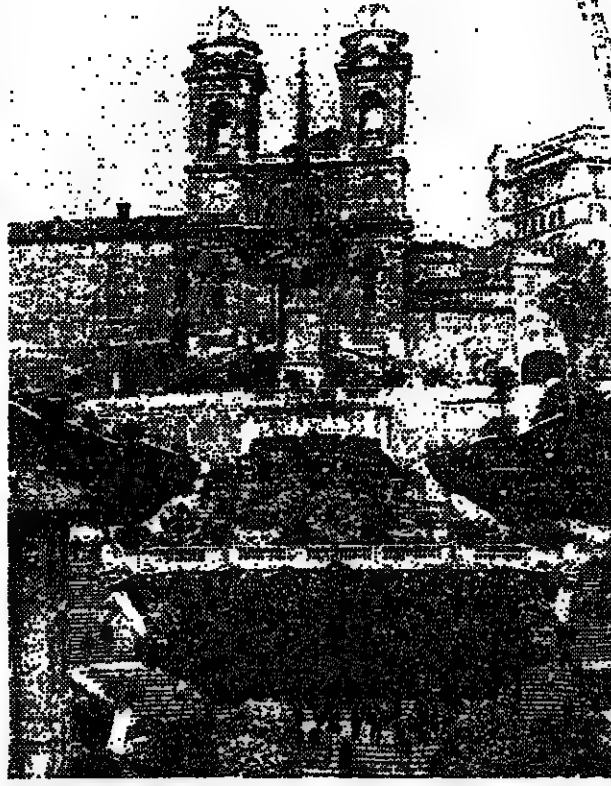
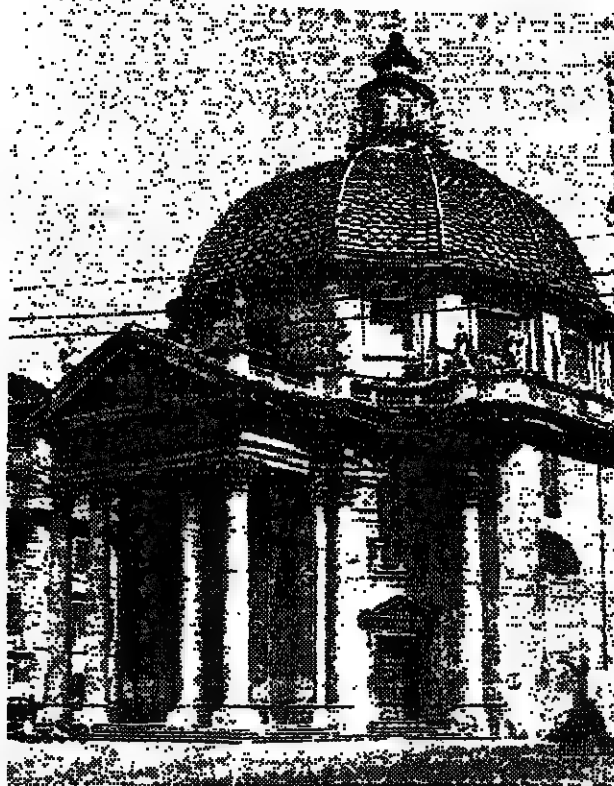
While from 1st June to 24th October, we shall be adding three extra flights a week to and from Pisa, making ten in all. Also, there will be four flights a week to and from Bologna, because we are adding one extra return flight.

And we now offer increased capacity to Rome, in the comfort of the Airbus and Super 80 aircraft. When you want to fly to Italy with 'that certain sense of style', fly Alitalia elegantly.

Alitalia

FOCUS

HOLIDAYS IN ITALY/2



Eternal magnificence: Roman scenes of grandeur at the Chiesa di Santa Maria in Montesanto, left, the Chiesa di Santa Cecilia with its splendid altar and statue of the saint, centre, and the ever popular Spanish Steps, right, covered in azaleas during spring and dominated by the twin-steeped church of Trinita dei Monti

See Raphael, but ask the nuns first

In London, it used to be said, there is nowhere you can stand without seeing at least three trees. In Rome it is churches. The Forum contains churches, and even the Pantheon, the greatest surviving building from antiquity, is a church.

The multiplicity of churches has proved the main stumbling block to British tourists. Time and again one comes across a group huddled disconsolately on a street corner who, having finally disentangled which church they want to head for, discover that it is *in restaura*.

How many people know that within a hundred yards of the Piazza Navona lies Sant' Ivo alla Sapienza, the finest church by Borromini in existence, open only with the permission of the custodian, a permission granted with a suitable tip? Or that Santa Maria della Pace, with a chapel frescoed by Raphael, is open only by contacting the Brazilian nuns in the cloister?

In the same area, how many people know that there are the earliest frescoes painted after the Sack of Rome in 1527, and a wonderful High Baroque ceiling by Pietro da Cortona, which are not open to the public at all?

This is typical of the excitement of Rome. Thousands flock to St Peter's but have never heard of the fascinating Roman necropolis be-

neath; they crowd into the Sistine Chapel little realizing that there is another chapel frescoed by Michelangelo within a few feet of them. They mass in front of the Caravaggio in San Luigi dei Francesi, and neglect his equally fine painting round the corner in Sant' Agostino.

The same applies outside Rome where Tivoli is the number one spot for tourists, while the even finer gardens of Caprarola and the Villa Lante to the north, and of Ninfa to the south, tend to be ignored.

The old military maxim "time spent in reconnaissance is seldom wasted" might equally have been applied to tourism. With sufficient planning it is possible to see a large number of the big tourist spots with minimum disturbance, and a great many well off the beaten track.

The archaeologists have defeated the proponents of the picturesque in the Forum. Nature has lost out to science and the wild flowers which captivated Shelley when writing *Prometheus Unbound* in the Baths of Caracalla, have been uprooted.

This is not so at Ostia Antica, the port of ancient Rome, a town at least as well-preserved as the more famous Pompeii, where the ruins are carpeted in lavender, dianthus and magnolia in May.

In Rome, you can see, with permission of the relevant govern-



Lord Charles FitzRoy introduces some of Rome's treasures the traveller could miss

ment department, the restoration of the bronze statue of Marcus Aurelius. Sadly, due to pollution, he will probably never resume his dominant position in the Michelangelo piazza on the Campidoglio.

Medieval Rome is the area which most often suffers from the rigours of a packed itinerary. Rome has more first-rate mosaics than Venice or Ravenna and even in the uglier parts of the city, such as the road from Fiumicino airport, there is a Romanesque cloister adjoining San Paolo fuori le Mura of great beauty.

And high above the west end of the nave of Santa Cecilia, where the nuns participate at Mass while remaining hidden from the congregation, there is a fresco of the

Last Judgement by Cavallini which shows a knowledge of perspective immediately preceding Giotto.

One of the main attractions of Rome is the ease with which one can appreciate the city by walking through the streets. Countless buildings show the imposition of one style over another and most of the great Renaissance palaces are built of stone taken from the Colosseum.

Many squares contain beautiful fountains, often, in the case of Bernini, of breathtaking complexity. The supreme example of this is the Trevi fountain by Nicola Salvi where Neptune and his Tritons emerge from the facade of a palace in a cascade of water.

There are wonderful gardens in and around Rome which remain little known. Thousands of tourists gaze into the Vatican gardens each day but are unable to enjoy the finest view of the dome of St Peter's and never see the charming casino of Pius IV described by Burckhardt as "the most perfect retreat imaginable for a midsummer afternoon".

The main road north to Florence gives the motorist a brief glimpse of the Villa Madama perched on Monte Mario overlooking the Tiber. Built by Raphael and the most famous villa in Italy before the sack of Rome in 1527, this was where

Goethe loved to go in the late afternoon to watch the sunset.

Near Viterbo are two gardens at Caprarola and the Villa Lante. The secret garden at Caprarola, despite being designed by Vignola as a retreat for Cardinal Alessandro Farnese, possesses a mysterious pagan feeling, felt by Queen Christina of Sweden who wrote: "I dare not speak the name of Jesus lest I break the spell."

To most people, with time so precious on their hands, the herd instinct beckons. Everyone goes to see the Forum, the Michelangelo Moses, the Sistine Chapel and St Peter's. The other sights can wait; the gardens are too far away, the opening hours too complicated to risk wasting valuable time. And yet the images of a place that remain in the mind are those which are out of the ordinary, those that make it special to oneself.

Byron felt that he had captured the spirit of the city on a visit of only 23 days when he wrote, "Oh Rome! My country! City of the soul." One can be certain that he was not a member of the herd.

● Lord Charles organizes private art tours to Rome and Venice in May and October. Contact him at 15 Savile Row, London W1K 1AE; 01-437 8553.

Take your car, take your time

Did you know that the Admirable Crichton is buried in Minna, northern Italy? The remains of "Giacomo Crichton" born at Ellick, Dumfriesshire, on August 19 1560, lie beneath the church of San Simone, as a wall tablet in Italian and English proclaims.

This 16th-century Scottish yuppie appears to have been a little too perfect: he was able, history relates, to get the better of his elders in disputes arguing in 12 languages on any aspect of learning and poetry, and was also an accomplished swordsman.

He was not so accomplished, however, as to avoid being killed in a brawl with a son of the reigning Gonzaga duke on 3 July 1582. He was aged just 22.

Did you know that William Harvey, who in 1616 made known his theory on the circulation of the blood, gained his first ideas while a medical student at Padua university? His is one of several portraits of distinguished English undergraduates in a hall at the university.

Such offbeat curiosities come the way of the car traveller.

The Po Valley is one of the most rewarding choices for motoring holidays. Few areas in the world have such density of works of art and historic buildings as the country towns between the Alps and Apennines. They developed, with their own political and cultural traditions, mostly a comfortable day's coaching distance from each other, now only minutes by car.

Then there are the more isolated spots like Pomposo, the Benedictine abbey in the foggy Po Delta, or the walled town of Sabbioneta where Lombardy meets Emilia.

It is an example of 16th-century town planning by one of the Gonzagas, Vespasiano, complete with a minor ducal palace, olympic theatre, garden palace, and the church containing his mausoleum. It has only 4,000 inhabitants and there is certainly no traffic problem.

Citalia, a British subsidiary of the CIT agency owned by the Italian state railways, is among the travel operators offering package arrange-

ments for car travellers. It gives assistance with cross-Channel ferry bookings, special rates for overnight stops at selected hotels in France, help in obtaining petrol discount coupons and autostrada toll vouchers, and itineraries and hotel bookings inside Italy.

Alternatively, it has an arrangement with Avis for the visitor to pick up a hire car at his arrival airport in Italy and return it to the same airport after an agreed number of weeks. Citalia says it has British representatives the year round at Rome, Florence and Venice.

Popular routes are to the lakes and the Alps, Tuscany, Umbria, and the Rome area. This summer Citalia is tempting travellers further south by introducing week-long hire-car tours in Apulia, Calabria and Sicily.

The Apulia tour starts at Bari airport and, like the other two, provides for half-board at

Driving around the heel and toe

hotels. The itinerary goes down to the heel of Italy and also to Alberobello with its cone-roofed *trulli* houses, the extravagant baroque town of Lecce, Gallipoli and Otranto.

The route for Calabria starts from Lamezia airport and rounds the toe of the "boot", including a pause at Reggio Calabria to see the Greek bronze statues of Riace, and a brief detour to Messina in Sicily.

The Sicilian tour is based on Catania airport, and covers the island from Syracuse and Agrigento in the south to Palermo in the north-west. Citalia stresses however that all tours can be adapted to the customer's wishes.

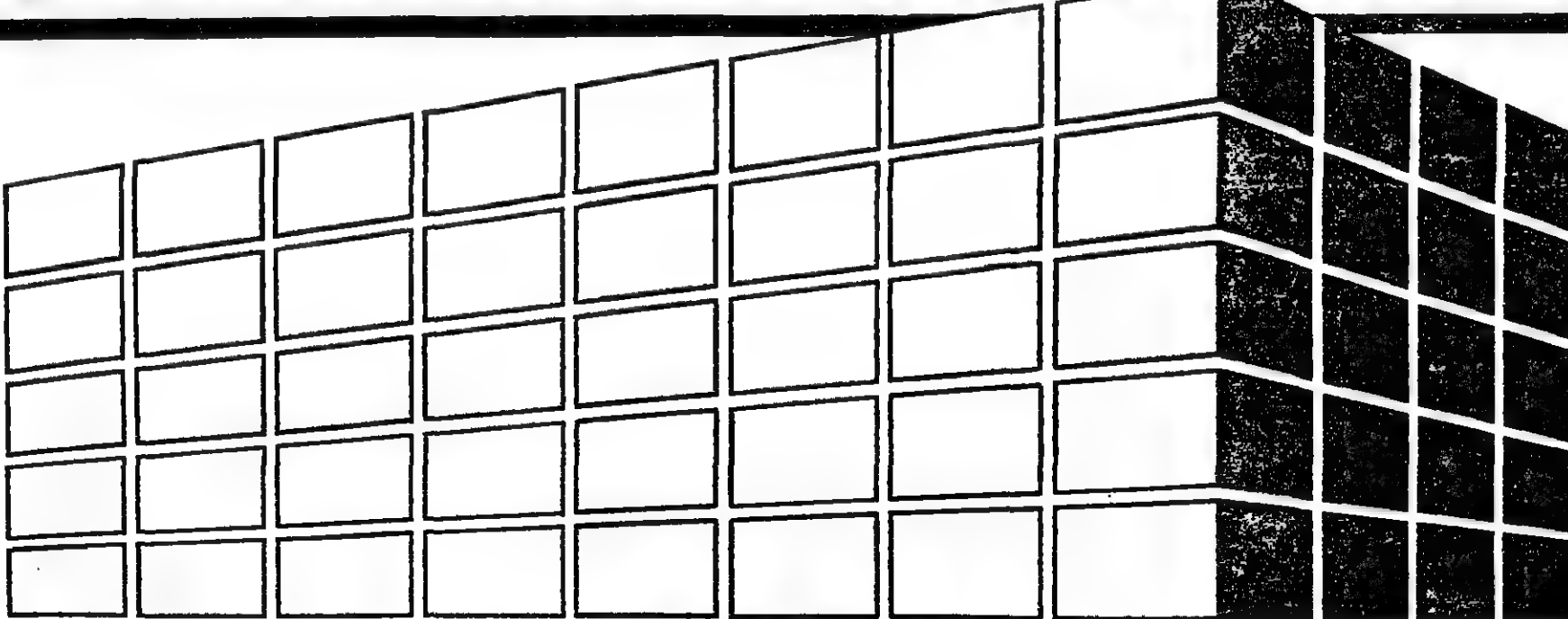
One or two practical hints may not be amiss for those unfamiliar with driving in Italy. Traffic flows fast, but reactions are usually faster. Seat belts are not compulsory — hired cars normally have them — but an outside rear-view mirror on the left-hand side is obligatory. Heavy lorries tend to regard motorways as racing tracks.

John Earle

Europe's foremost Casino is 90 minutes from Milan.

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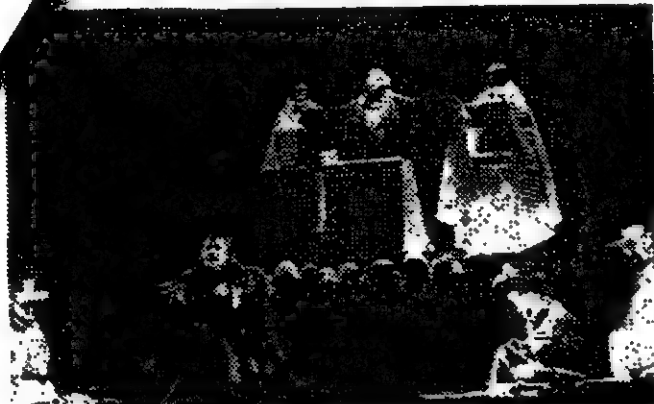
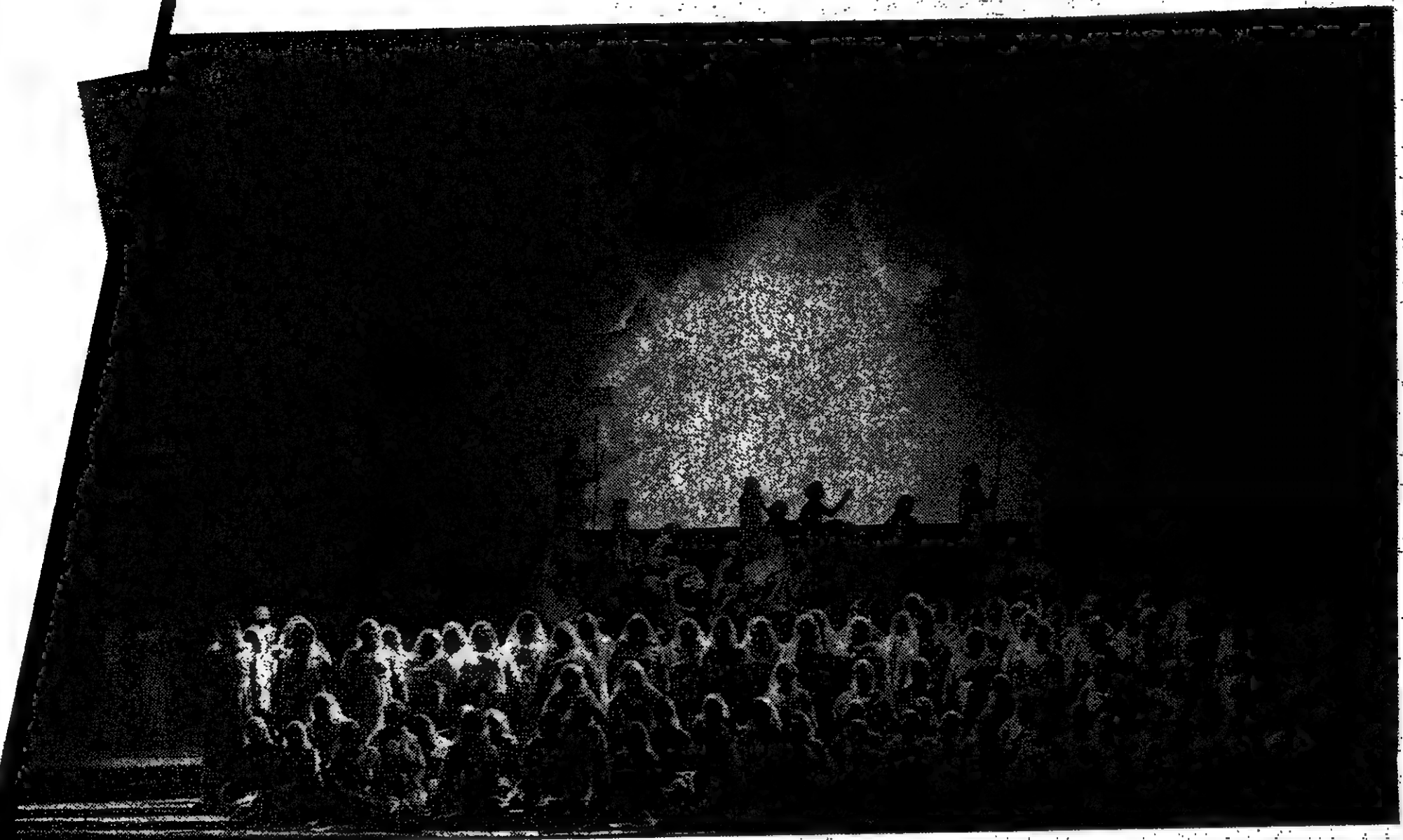
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Teatro alla Scala

From the Season 1986-87



Riccardo III



Otello



Le nozze di Figaro



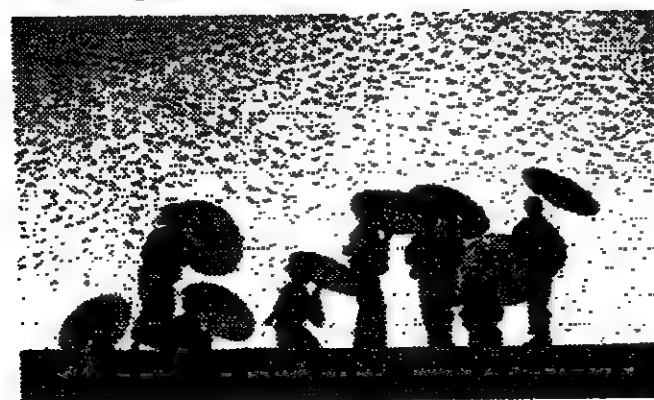
Il flauto magico



Alcide



Salome



Madama Butterfly



I Pagliacci



Il tabarro



Il figliol prodigo



L'arca di Noe



Don Chisciotte

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

THEATRE LONDON

COUNTRY DANCING: How folk dancing almost died in rural England - Nigel Williams's attractive play from Stratford 86. Good tunes. Pit Theatre, Stratford Centre, London EC2 (01-628 8795). Tue: 8.30pm, matinee Sat 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

FAIR MAID OF THE WEST: Imelda Staunton as the pirate queen in this Heywood's comedy of love and high jinks on the high seas. An RSC production. Puddle Theatre, London EC4 (01-236 5568). Tue: 8.30pm, Mon-Sat 7.30-10.45pm, matinee Thurs and Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

FASCINATING AIDA: The witty, sexy, subversive threesome, sparkling and larking about. Puddle Theatre, London EC4 (01-236 5568). Tue: 8.30pm, Mon-Sat 7.30-10.45pm, matinee Thurs and Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

THE HENRY: Michael Bogdanov's impressive production of Shakespeare's Henry plays, with Michael Pennington as Prince Hal and Henry V, and John Woodvine as Falstaff. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, London SE1 (01-928 7616, or 01-261 1821). Tue: 8.30pm, Mon-Sat 7.30-10.45pm, matinee Thurs and Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

HIGH SOCIETY: The show of the film. Staked with extra Cole Porter. Victoria Palace Theatre, Victoria Street, London W1 (01-437 1317). Tue: 8.30pm, Mon-Sat 7.30-10.45pm, matinee Thurs and Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

MARCH OF THE FALSETTOS: The zippy, witty musical by William Finn concerning the home life of New York bisexuals. Albery Theatre, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-438 3878). Tue: 8.30pm, Mon-Sat 7.30-10.45pm, matinee Thurs and Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

BEHIND THE SCENES: Caryl Churchill's musical play about the Big Bang and City greed. Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, London SW1 (01-730 1749). Tue: 8.30pm, Mon-Sat 7.30-10.45pm, matinee Thurs and Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

THREE SISTERS: Strongly cast Chekhov in a new translation by Michael Frayn. Greenwich Theatre, Greenwich, London SE10 (01-858 7755). Tue: 8.30pm, Mon-Sat 7.30-10.45pm, matinee Thurs and Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

TOP CLASSICAL COMPACT DISCS

1 (1) Elgar: Cello Concerto, Lloyd Webber/BPO/Muennich Philips DG
2 (1) Holst: The Planets, BPO/Karajan DG
3 (1) Pavarotti Collection, Luciano Pavarotti Styx
4 (1) Viadivi: Four Seasons, Aam/Harwood Lyr/Decca
5 (1) Beethoven: Symphonies 8 & 9, BPO/Karajan DG
6 (1) Rachmaninov: Piano Concertos 2 & 4, Ashkenazy/CBS/Hainltin DG
7 (1) Elgar: Cello Concerto, Lloyd Webber/BPO/Muennich Philips DG
8 (1) Elgar: Cello Concerto, Lloyd Webber/BPO/Muennich Philips DG
9 (1) Elgar: Cello Concerto, Lloyd Webber/BPO/Muennich Philips DG
10 (1) Elgar: Cello Concerto, Lloyd Webber/BPO/Muennich Philips DG

Source: Music Week Research

ENTERTAINMENTS

CONCERTS

BARRICAN MALL: 6.30pm/8.30pm. The Barricade. Barricade Music. Tel: 01-438 3878.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: 7.30pm. The Royal Opera. Tel: 01-438 3878.

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OPERA & BALLET

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: 7.30pm. The Royal Opera. Tel: 01-438 3878.

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THEATRES

ALBERT HALL: 7.30pm. The Albert Hall. Tel: 01-438 3878.

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ME AND MY GIRL

ALBERT HALL: 7.30pm. The Albert Hall. Tel: 01-438 3878.

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ALBERT HALL: 7.30pm. The Albert Hall. Tel: 01-438 3878.

BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS

ALBERT HALL: 7.30pm. The Albert Hall. Tel: 01-438 3878.

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OUT OF TOWN

BOLTON: Black Star. New play by David Pownall about the Aldridge, the first great black actor, meeting prejudice and censorship on his Folio tour. Octagon Theatre, Howell Croft Square (0204 20881). Mon-Sat 7.30-10.45pm, matinee Thurs and Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

CHELSEA: The Heat of the Day. A dramatization of Elizabeth Bowen's wartime novel, with Charron Bourke and Patricia Lawrence. Everyman Theatre, Regent Street (0242 57273). Tue-Fri 7.30-10.45pm, matinee Thurs and Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

HARLOW: Peer Gynt. Michael Maloney plays Ibsen's feckless hero in Cambridge Theatre Company's touring production. Playhouse Theatre, The High (0223 31945). Mon-Sat 7.30-10.45pm, matinee Thurs and Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

LEEDS: Prayers. Philip Voss plays the colonial newspaper tycoon in a famous tale of old Fleet Street. Playhouse Theatre, Calverley Street (0532 44211). Mon and Tues 8.30pm, Wed-Sat 7.30-10.45pm, matinee Thurs and Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

LIVERPOOL: Comedians. Trevor Griffiths's 1975 play The Comedians re-written for women performers. With Cheryl Miller, Jenny Lacey and Ann Mitchell. Everyman Theatre, Hopes Street (0151 708 4778). Tue-Sat 8.30pm, matinee Thurs and Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

MANCHESTER: Adrian Noble's production of the film All About Eve with Josephine Baker in the title role. Theatres, Wyndham Street (0161 275 1000). Tue-Sat 7.30-10.45pm, matinee Thurs and Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

RICHMOND: The Green Ray. A comedy by Eric Rohmer. Theatres, Richmond (0181 440 0088). Tue-Sat 7.30-10.45pm, matinee Thurs and Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

SHEFFIELD: The Green Ray. A comedy by Eric Rohmer. Theatres, Sheffield (0114 245 4500). Tue-Sat 7.30-10.45pm, matinee Thurs and Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

THE FOURTH PROTOCOL: A thriller by Michael Caine. Theatres, London (01-438 3878). Tue-Sat 7.30-10.45pm, matinee Thurs and Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

THE GREEN RAY: A comedy by Eric Rohmer. Theatres, London (01-438 3878). Tue-Sat 7.30-10.45pm, matinee Thurs and Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

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Two successes from last year's Edinburgh Festival are playing in a double bill at the Young Vic Studio. *Loch's* unfinished play, given the name *Connelly Without Title*, was the first British production to commemorate the author's death at the start of the Spanish Civil War half a century ago. It is a strikingly prophetic piece, set in a theatre during a coup d'état, in which Franchist arguments are blasted apart by an air raid. The companion piece, *Obscene Fables*, is a cluster of bawdy tales by Dario Fo (above), usually performed as monologues by Fo himself and his wife Franca Rame, but here adapted for a company of four. They take on impossible roles, including a dunkey, one of the tales being derived from an Italian folktale of the classic tale of sexuality in the ancient world, *The Golden Ass*. Fo is chiefly known here for political plays (*Accidental Death of an Anarchist*) but this production reveals him in his role as an anarchic social satirist. Tonight, Young Vic Studio, London (01-928 6363), 7.30pm.

Jersey Kingston

CONCERTS LUNCHTIME

IT'S A MISTERY: Mozart's String Quartet No 19, K. 465, 'Dissonance', and pieces from 'Les Vespérales' collection by Russian composers are played by the Mistery Quartet. Theatres, London (01-438 3878). Tue-Sat 7.30-10.45pm, matinee Thurs and Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

FLUTE MUSIC: The flautist Christine Hansen performs Shostakovich's 'Flute Concerto', and pieces from 'Les Vespérales' collection by Russian composers are played by the Mistery Quartet. Theatres, London (01-438 3878). Tue-Sat 7.30-10.45pm, matinee Thurs and Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

CONCERTS EVENING

KAMU CONDUCTS: The LPO in concert. Theatres, London (01-438 3878). Tue-Sat 7.30-10.45pm, matinee Thurs and Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

SCHNITZMAN SINGS: The LPO in concert. Theatres, London (01-438 3878). Tue-Sat 7.30-10.45pm, matinee Thurs and Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

WHEN THE WIND BLOWS: The LPO in concert. Theatres, London (01-438 3878). Tue-Sat 7.30-10.45pm, matinee Thurs and Fri 2.30pm, 2.50-12.50.

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WALKS

GHOSTS OF THE WEST END: meet Embankment tube, 7.30pm, 22.50.

POLITICAL LONDON - GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT: meet Embankment tube, 11.30am, 22.50.

DICKENS: meet Embankment tube, 2pm, 22.50.

NEWS OF COURT: meet Chancery Lane tube (ticket office), 11am, 22.50.

DANCE

BATHEVIA: Dance company from Israel in four works by American choreographers. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (01-638 8919, or 01-638 8900). 7.45-9.50pm, 22.50-12.50.

SWAN LAKE: Andrii Prokoryvsky's production for Northern Ballet Theatre brings out the drama. Farnley Theatre, Farnley Road, Scarborough (01723 365789) 7.30-9.30pm, 22.50-12.50.

OPERA

TOSCA: Phyllis Carran in the title role of Jonathan Miller's controversial production set in Nazi-occupied Rome. English National Opera, Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-938 3161). 8-10.45pm, 22-12.50.

SILVERLAKE: Kurt Weill's 'The Silver Lake' of private passions and public morality with the vision of a new society. A rare staging by Abbey Opera as part of the Camden Festival. Broadway Theatre, Gordon Street, London WC1 (01-387 9629) 8-10.45pm, 22-12.50.

OPERA

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE: A new production of Rossini's opera, conducted by György Fischer. Apollo Theatre, Gower Street, London WC1 (01-638 8919, or 01-638 8900). 7.45-9.50pm, 22.50-12.50.

RUSSIAN OPERA: New Sadler's Wells Opera tour in Judge's hands and with production of the G & B mod-moderate, strongly cast and well sung. Theatre Royal, Theatre Street, London WC2 (01-638 8919, or 01-638 8900). 7.45-9.50pm, 22.50-12.50.

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THE ARTS

Is the pen mightier than the board?

A letter to *The Times* from Graham Greene (right) ticking off his nephew gave the outside world its first glimpse of a bitter row within the publishing conglomerate of Jonathan Cape, Chatto & Windus, the Bodley Head and Virago. But, as Alan Franks discovered, the turmoil behind the tranquil Georgian facade of the group's Bloomsbury headquarters is symptomatic of a wider crisis in British publishing



Wind of change in the book world: Liz Calder (left), of recently formed publishers Bloomsbury, Graham Greene (centre) of Chatto, the Bodley Head and Cape, and Carmen Callil, managing director of Chatto

Fletcher, and Alan Franks. The statistically named Bloomsbury company makes no apologies about its ideals: "We are trying to go back to what authors believe it should all be about," says Caroline Michel, the press officer. "We think they should be involved in all the stages. There's no doubt that in the larger business, such considerations tend to get forgotten."

For a fledgling house, it is not doing badly. It has 25 titles on its current spring list, with 85 scheduled for the end of the year, 120 for the end of 1988, and an annual figure of 150 thereafter.

Bloomsbury has just 30 employees, and a small handful of editors, working for Liz Calder and the non-fiction editor, David Reynolds. It has managed to raise an annual budget of £2 million from four City institutions, whose identities it declines to divulge.

Satanic milling

A very funny *Open Space* (BBC2) reported on the continuing war between God and Satan in Lancashire, the traditional home of witchcraft and (not by coincidence) recusancy. In God's corner, captured by a trendy Rev in a Fringe sweater, glad-eyed enthusiasts clapped their hands and sang of dishing the Devil. A positivist, reformist occultist, who started out on

TELEVISION

ouija boards but soon hit the harden stuff, publicly renounced Satan and all his works. Meanwhile, in another part of Pendle Forest, we found several persons bearing candles and wearing the scarlet cowled robes of the Hammer costume department. Between doomy chants, one of the cowls said: "In a time of economic recession..."

This was all good stuff, standing in sharp contrast to the farcical wit of the headlines such as "Vicars Saved Blonde Raped By Witches". The opposing camps support each other's identity - each needs the other for its own self-perception. Both also combine obfuscation of thought with alarming candour: one heavy-metal occultist confessed that he was using only a small percentage of his brain's potential.

Horizon (also BBC2) then presented the remarkable case of a man suffering from visual agnosia - the inability to interpret the evidence of his eyes as meaningful patterns. He has a clear grasp of detail, but none at all of complete form. This must be like waking up to discover that one has turned into a Martian post.

Martin Cropper

PISA

Pisa is in Tuscany, Italy. This is the city of the Field of Miracles and the Leaning Tower, one of the world's architectural wonders. The city of Galileo Galilei, seat of learning and research. The city beloved by Byron and Shelley.

But Pisa is also one of the best liked seaside tourist resorts in Italy. The city is connected to the main motorways and Italian railway lines and has an international Airport linking it with all the cities in the world.

The magic moment of the long tourist season is the "GIUGNO PISANO": the month of June in Pisa, dedicated to great spectacular historic pageants.

The programme includes:

June 7: **THE SEAFARING REPUBLICS REGATTA**
This event embodies and perpetuates the historic heritage of maritime and republican Italy from the first medieval Age, represented by the cities of Amalfi, Venice, Genoa and Pisa.

June 16 night: **LA LUMINARA**
The Arno embankment is the stage for a spectacular show of twenty thousand wax lights set on windows, balconies and renaissance palaces. The overall effect is one of extraordinary emotion.

June 28: **IL GIOCO DEL PONTE**
In this "Game on the Bridge" the twelve historical boroughs of Pisa meet in a battle for the conquest of the Ponte di Mezzo. The spectacular fight, centering on a gigantic moving carriage, is preceded by the largest historic Pageant in Italy.

(trans. by the Press and Public Relations Office of Pisa)

Enigmatic quest

Anis Sallinen and Nicholas Hytner, composer and producer of *The King Goes Forth to France*, which receives its British premiere at Covent Garden tomorrow, tell Richard Morrison of their operatic ideals

The Finnish composer Anis Sallinen, in London to attend final rehearsals for the British premiere of his *The King Goes Forth to France* at the Royal Opera House tomorrow, expands on a topic that is obviously dear to his heart. "Maybe new opera has always had difficulties," says the man with a world-wide reputation for writing powerful new operas, "and opera-houses still have basic problems of accessibility and education. But still I am quite sure that, if you put music and theatre together, the result is much more than one plus one."

The fact that Sallinen has stayed to watch the assembly of Covent Garden's production is in itself encouraging for Nicholas Hytner, the young British director chosen to stage *The King*. When it was performed in Kiel Sallinen was publicly unhappy. "I saw one rehearsal, then I went home," he confirms tersely. The problem was the Germans' famously literal approach to the opera's ostensibly British characters: the King was portrayed as Prince Charles, his four prospective fiancées as Diana look-alikes.

Yet, as Sallinen cheerfully admits, this unique "collective fable" - evoking the near future and the distant past, and incorporating epic, satirical and farcical elements - is fair game for all manner of interpretation. Faced with a new Ice Age, the English King leads his army and population across the frozen English Channel into France, where he wages a war that increasingly comes to resemble the Hundred Years' War. The campaign has an obvious satirical effect on the character, yet the mood at the end - with the English pressing on for Paris and the perennial hope of good times just around the corner - is left enigmatically uncertain.

It is an enigma upon which Sallinen is not to be pinned down. Is the ending supposed to be optimistic? "Well, there is the possibility..." he mutters cryptically. "Man's eternal journey for something he thinks better: that's a slight light in the end. I think so."

Then this quietly humorous composer slyly changes the subject. "Mr Hytner understands it perfectly. I like him very much; he comes from the spoken theatre. Maybe the time has at last come when opera directors are not retired tenors."



"Maybe the time has at last come when opera directors are not retired tenors": Sallinen (left) with Hytner

which is generally rational, it is refreshing to find something that gives full rein to that which is instinctive, and therefore irrational."

He points to the tension in *The King* between the aspirations of some of the rhetoric and the mundane political necessities that it disguises. "There's a big sense of *Henry V* in this. All those campaigns waged by medieval kings against the French demonstrate, on the one hand, a nation defining itself and its aspirations through combat but, on the other hand, the more mundane truth that prime ministers and medieval kings often waged war to distract their subjects from domestic problems."

Hytner stresses the sheer entertainment value he believes *The King* to possess. "It's not pompous in any way, and that's unusual in opera. With 100 people in the pit and God knows how many on stage, it still manages to be marvellously ironic and very funny." Hytner, more usually found directing plays in Manchester, last ventured into opera for ENO's *Xerxes*, two years ago and gives the impression that he would not have been tempted back for anything more "traditional" than this Sallinen piece.

"I am desperately unhappy about what I see as the director's rather corrupt position. There is too much responsibility invested in him to 'make new' - responsibility that ought to be invested in the composer."

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GLENDIA JACKSON in Lorca's **THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA**

JOAN PLOWRIGHT with PATRICIA HAYES as Maria Joaze

"My production of the year Lorca's sun-baked masterpiece of sexual repression" Fr "Should now be seized eagerly by anyone with any love of the theatre" s. tele "Brilliant, brilliant, brilliant. What more can I say?" Time Out

WINNER OF THE OBSERVER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT Laurence Olivier Awards 1986

NURIA ESPERT - BEST DIRECTOR London Standard Drama Awards 1986
JOAN PLOWRIGHT - BEST ACTRESS
EZIO FRIGERIO - BEST DESIGNER Drama Magazine Awards 1986

GLOBE THEATRE 01-437 3667

CONCERTS

RPO/Hickox Festival Hall

No doubt there are reasons for attempting the splendours of the *Grand Masses des morts* in a hall which is almost the exact opposite of the spacious church acoustics that Berlioz had in mind. Richard Hickox suggested some of them in conducting this performance, much detail of the writing being able to make an unusually clear effect, such as the stabbing rhythms in the "Lacrymosa" or the swishing of the four pairs of cymbals in the "Sanctus".

chords at other times simply obliterated themselves instead of letting us hear their dying resonances.

Philip Langridge shirked none of the tenor's high tessitura in his solo song of praise at "Pleni sunt coeli", but with a certain audible effort, while the acoustic quality again defeated the intended halo effect with which the chorus voices should surround him. In terms of chord singing alone, they kept themselves well up to pitch in the unaccompanied passages, and slipped into some oddities of balance with the orchestra only where they would have had difficulty in hearing their own sound.

As an interpretation the performance had a clear musical sensibility and a constant awareness of the most original aspects of Berlioz's writing. Hickox met to some extent the composer's wish for "religious choruses mixed with dancing carols", but there could be no sense of that awe and mystery with which the senses are transcended by the spirit.

Noel Goodwin

Caballé/Zanetti

Covent Garden

These days a recital by Montserrat Caballé seems to be an invitation for audience participation. Nobody let on what a Spanish voice called down after one item but the singer herself, shocked and giggling, was quick to reply "Well, not at my age, but thank you anyway".

The modesty is becoming, when the voice itself has aged very little. The purity of Caballé's tone when she sings softly is still quite remarkable and the top register, though disproportionate in volume to the rest and a touch unpredictable, remained firm and true whenever she hit it squarely.

Over the years the operatic diva has become a practised recitalist. (Did she really say this was her twenty-second recital in London?)

The sterner stuff of other singers' programmes is carefully avoided and she concentrates on the light Spanish songs and vocalises, in which her mastery of vocal line can be shown to the greatest effect. Indeed,

the Vivaldi and Spontini arias in the first half virtually became vocal exercises, whether she meant them to or not. Words were often abandoned altogether as the pure musician in her turned to shaping the arching Italian lines, colouring the tone in one phrase, carefully moulding the next.

Richard Fairman

Charges are dropped

BE THE FACE OF JUSTICE?

HANGING.

US pulls Marines out of Moscow

Washington (AP) — All the Marine guards stationed at the US Embassy in Moscow will be returned to the United States next month in a "precautionary" move, the State Department and Marine Corps said yesterday.

The contingent of Marine guards will be replaced by Marine security guards stationed in other posts around the world or by Marines drawn from the Marine Security Headquarters in Quantico, Virginia, a joint statement said.

The move follows last week's news that the corps suspects two former guards of allowing Soviet agents to roam through the embassy at night on "numerous and diverse occasions" last year, poking through sensitive communication facilities and offices.

The corps has charged Sergeant Clayton Lonetree with 24 spying-related counts of misconduct, including two capital charges of espionage. Corporal Arnold Bracy is being held in confinement pending the start of a pre-trial investigation.

"This measure is precautionary in nature and is intended to facilitate an investigation of the security programme at the US Embassy," the statement said. "There is no evidence that any of the returning Marines are implicated in any wrongdoing."

The Marine Corps refuses to discuss how many men it has assigned to the guard force in Moscow, citing security considerations. Pentagon sources have said, however, that the unit normally consists of 28 or 29 Marines.

"They are not suspected of any involvement," said Major Tony Rothford, a Marine spokesman.

The rotation of the guards comes at a time when the State Department has ordered a wide-ranging inquiry of its security procedures in Moscow. It also comes when the Pentagon has ordered the Navy to conduct an investigation of the procedures used in selecting, training and deploying Marine embassy guards.

In a related development yesterday, a former CIA Director, Mr Stansfield Turner, said there had not been enough security checks run on Marines guarding the Moscow embassy, and suggested the use of polygraph tests, remote-control cameras and rotation of guards' partners to ensure security.

The Marine Corps last Friday alleged that Lonetree, aged 25, had escorted Soviet agents through the embassy on numerous occasions between January and March 1986. It also alleged that Bracy, aged 21, had served as a lookout for Lonetree, helping to shut off internal alarms that were triggered by the Soviet agents.

Pentagon sources also have disclosed that both men became involved sexually with Soviet women employed at the embassy, which allegedly led to their recruitment by Soviet agents.

Still no news, Jumblatt tells Runcie



By Clifford Langley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Lebanese Druze leader Mr. Walid Jumblatt (above right) had talks in London yesterday with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, but was unable to throw any light on the disappearance, in the Lebanon, of Dr Runcie's special

representative Mr. Terry Waite. Mr. Jumblatt also met Mr. Timothy Renton, the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who said later: "He does not have any precise news, although he has assured me he will continue to use his best endeavours to try to find the whereabouts of Mr. Waite and other hostages and secure their release."

Mr. Jumblatt and Dr Runcie's office at Lambeth Palace have maintained frequent contact since Mr. Waite's disappearance, in January, on a mission to try to negotiate freedom for Western hostages.

Mr. Waite had sought Druze assistance and protection, but vanished after leaving his escort in order to

meet his Muslim contacts. Subsequently Mr. Jumblatt offered himself as a substitute hostage.

Mr. Jumblatt, who is Minister of Tourism in the Lebanon's coalition government, was in Britain as a guest of the Foreign Office in that capacity, on a visit which was arranged before Mr. Waite's disappearance.

Thatcher emphasizes trust and mutual security

From Robin Oakley and Christopher Walker
Moscow

Mrs Thatcher and Mr Gorbachev had had a full day of talks before yesterday's banquet, with both the morning and afternoon sessions overrunning their timetable to give them nearly three hours longer together than had been planned.

The British side described the talks as "lively, animated and forthright — but never hostile".

In response to Mrs Thatcher's urgings on human rights Mr Gorbachev did not hesitate to hit back with complaints about the British authorities' behaviour in

Northern Ireland and about the treatment of Wapping demonstrators.

The two central themes of Mrs Thatcher's speech were how East and West should manage change in their societies and how they should assure themselves of security.

Both in their talks and in last night's speech the Prime Minister defended blunt talking.

On East-West relations Mrs Thatcher said that established confidence and trust was vital if they were to reach agreements enabling them to cut armaments and devote more resources to the well-being of their people.

On human rights, she in-

sisted: "The extent to which you, the Soviet Government, meet the commitments which you have freely undertaken in the Helsinki Final Act will determine how far other countries and other peoples have confidence in the undertakings which you give on, for instance, arms control. The greater your readiness to release prisoners of conscience and to allow those who wish to do so freely to leave their country — and we welcome the steps which you have already taken — the greater the readiness that you will find in the West to believe that peaceful and friendly relations with the Soviet Union can be maintained and extended."

On Afghanistan, she said the Soviet Union should withdraw its armies with the shortest possible delay so that the Afghan people could exercise their right to self-determination.

On defence, Mrs Thatcher insisted that the West threatened no-one, and she underlined her suspicion of the motives behind Mr Gorbachev's DNF offer by warning that Europe could not be divided from the United States. "We are inseparable."

On the INF negotiations, Mrs Thatcher said that at each stage of the negotiations each side must enjoy undiminished security. They had to look at the whole range of ar-

maments, not just one category.

On Star Wars, the Prime Minister declared that there was no reason why deep cuts in strategic weapons need not be made to depend on limitations in the United States research programme on strategic defence. It could not be stopped any more than the onward march of science in general.

On Britain's deserters she quoted Sir Winston Churchill for the second time in her speech as saying: "Be careful above all things not to let go of the atomic weapon until you are sure, and more than sure, that other means of preserving peace are in your hands."

Conflict in Moscow

Continued from page 1

Gorbachev's 12-page speech adopted the newly-christened Soviet policy of defending itself against Western criticism by responding in kind with attacks on alleged abuses of human rights in many aspects of Western society.

In remarks taken particularly to refer to the position in Britain, the Kremlin leader said that he was prepared to discuss individual cases in a humane spirit, adding "but we are firm in our intention to deal with all these problems openly and publicly so that we can be heard by millions of unemployed and homeless people in the West who live in poverty and who are harassed by the police and the courts, who see their civil rights and

human dignity flagrantly denied to them because of the colour of their skin."

Much of Mr Gorbachev's most scathing criticism was reserved for the whole strategy of nuclear deterrence which Mrs Thatcher had again advocated forcibly earlier in the day during talks with a Soviet peace group known to enjoy official support despite its supposedly unofficial status.

The Soviet leader said that nuclear deterrence was not a fail-safe device, and that the logic behind it was a logic of arms build-up and improvement. "Deterrence implies a policy of blackmail and threat; hence, it serves to feed constantly the arms race and mounting tensions," he said.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Historic row goes on show yet again

Government and Opposition argued yesterday about whether museums should levy a charge for entry.

This row has been going on for so long that, as Mark Twain said of a certain museum, it ought to be in a museum. Not that the row was any the worse for being old, it was good to see it being shown once more yesterday.

Some of the most important functions of Parliament is to be the National Museum of Rows. That is at least as important as its other functions, such as National Museum of Old Master Prime Ministers and home of the national collection of priceless points of order.

Indeed, the various functions are each part of one another. Some rows (such as church tithe, Welsh Disestablishment, Tassie debts, the Second Front and Mr Heath's reasons for sulking all the time) have been lost forever.

That is partly the result of changing public taste, partly the result of neglect on the part of the Museum's curators.

There is still a chance that some of these national treasures could be saved. For example, Mr Heath's Long Walk (which still hangs in the first seat below the gangway in the Conservative wing) could be made available on video. It could then be enjoyed by future generations long after its owner has gone from the House.

Happily, many rows are timeless. They appeal to something deep in the human spirit, such as the desire of so many of our more public-spirited fellow citizens to spoil the lives of other people.

One thinks of such much-loved rows as private education (is it socially desirable?), private health (should some patients be allowed to jump the queue merely because they can afford it rather than because of some more idealistic reason such as their being a member of the ruling Politbureau?), private lives (intrusion into, private industry (production for profit), private parts (intrusion of), these are but a few of the masterpieces always on show at Westminster.

Museum charges in this

exalted category. It was raised yesterday by Mr Frank Johnson (Ashfield, Lab). He is a former fireman on the old Southern Railway and a former coal miner. He is a reminder that the national collection of Labour Politicians Who Are Really Working Class, a group of fabulous rarities including a primitive skinner.

Mr Haines protested to Mr Richard Luce, the Minister for the Arts, that "even children are sometimes having to pay a £1 museum charge. The Government is not doing very well."

"If the Hon Gentleman thinks we are not doing well by doubling the number of museums in the last 15 years, he should think again," Mr Luce replied. "More Museums Under The Tories" could be a dangerous election slogan for the Government, since opponents might cruelly include British industry and the North of England among the museums.

As for charges, Mr Luce said they were a matter for museum trustees. This drew Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) into the row. Mr Banks rose through the old GLC. He is a former chairman of that body's arts and recreation committee. He is superbly hung in the surrealist London Local Government wing at Westminster, as part of the movement which art historians call Les Loomies.

Mr Banks said that trustees imposed charges only because of inadequate government money for museums.

"This is symptomatic of the Government's seedy, sweet corner shop mentality towards museums and other things, too," he protested, displaying the sort of lofty disdain for trade of many of his fellow autocratic patrons of the arts in history.

Mr Luce fought back with a figure of 13 per cent as the average rise in government spending on museums under the Tories. Labour members deployed the traditional charge of Philistinism. An excellent row, then, ably presided over by Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Keeper of Hacksles.

Record £22.5m for Van Gogh flowers

Continued from page 1

burst of gold and ochre with which the great Post-Impressionist artist had splattered his canvases.

The picture was painted in January 1889, only months before Van Gogh took his own life and is the last of a series of seven paintings of sunflowers, perhaps the artist's most famous works.

The first four paintings were done in Arles in August 1888 from "vases of flowers which, Vincent lamented, kept dying on him before he got them down in paint. It was with the intention of making a gift to Gauguin that Vincent made replicas of the two big vasesful

in the following January. He then painted the Christie's picture, the last and biggest of the series, painting from memory.

The painting was first exhibited three years after Van Gogh's death and in 1934 it was bought by Edith Chester Beatty, second wife of the famous millionaire mining engineer Arthur Chester Beatty.

The beneficiaries of last night's sale are Edith Chester Beatty's great-grandchildren, Lord Brooke and Lady Charles Fraser and their mother Mrs Sarah Thomson-Jones née Chester Beatty, who was formerly married to the Earl of Warwick.

WEATHER

General situation: a frontal system will move slowly southward across all areas. Wales, Northern Ireland and most of Scotland will start cloudy with rain at times. The rain will spread to all areas of England during the day. Colder, brighter and more showery weather will move from the north-west to replace the cloud and rain. South-east England will be cloudy and dry at first with rain later and a moderate southwesterly wind. In western areas rain will be heavy in places. There will be strong to gale force winds in parts of eastern and northern Scotland. Most places will have a rather warm day. Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: becoming colder and rather cloudy with showers or longer periods of rain.

ABROAD

Summary: a, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; h, fog; r, rain; s, snow; t, thunder; w, wind; x, squall; y, shower.

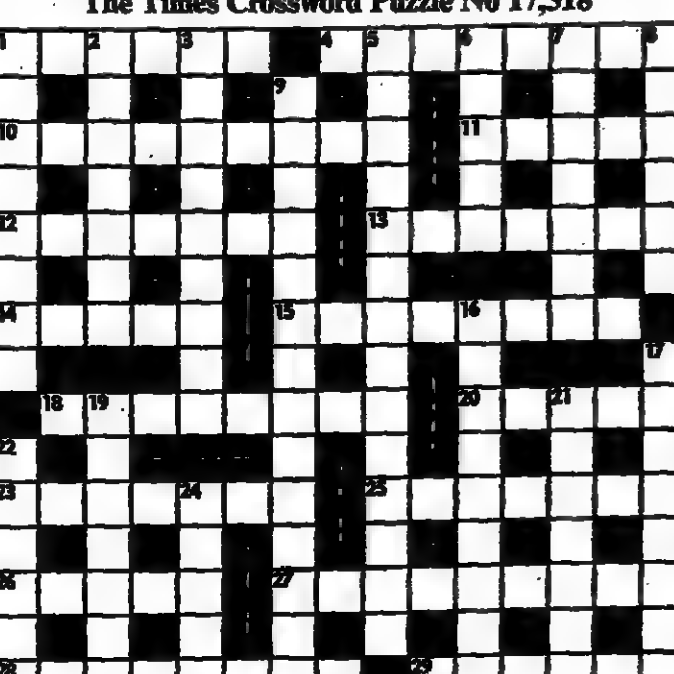
AROUND BRITAIN

Summary: a, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; h, fog; r, rain; s, snow; t, thunder; w, wind; x, squall; y, shower.

HIGH TIDES

Summary: a, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; h, fog; r, rain; s, snow; t, thunder; w, wind; x, squall; y, shower.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,318



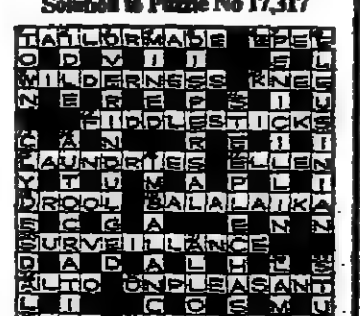
ACROSS

- 1 Strip-joints opening today (6).
- 2 Travelling-clock? (8).
- 10 Country home of three belles we hear (9).
- 11 Bellini's work has the usual cut (5).
- 12 Let's change to nothing short of mineral water (7).
- 13 Change for keeping goods and silver in warehouse (7).
- 14 Sell the dummy — touchdown possible (3,2).
- 15 Fag-end got bent in picking up the pieces (8).
- 18 Pair in tight kiss and cuddle (8).
- 20 Is "A" so out of tune we need a musical alternative? (5).
- 23 Mount that is dangerous when active... (7).
- 25... abiding fence, perhaps (7).
- 26 Cold store base (5).
- 27 The unlighted inflame Professor Higgins (9).
- 28 Serving as guardian yet ultra-changeable (8).
- 29 Damage to church is seldom met with (6).

DOWN

- 1 Down payments for measures of coal, for example (8).
- 2 French were form broadcast after six (7).
- 3 By writing this, zoo can be made so — with sudden emphasis (9).
- 5 Gear-changing practice for road show? (5,9).
- 6 Chap to travel for tropical fruit (5).
- 7 Ground where there is no parking for a water-tortoise (7).
- 8 Standard text-book for a senior lecturer (6).
- 9 Perhaps the good marry if she waves her wand (5,9).
- 16 Strange one brightened this classical old age (9).
- 17 One is set to drain off water when royal egg is cooked (8).
- 19 Railmen taking part in minor complaint (7).
- 21 Flight engineer concerned with pitch? (7).
- 22 This wader has an octave range (6).
- 24 Shock for a Scandinavian mountaineer (5).

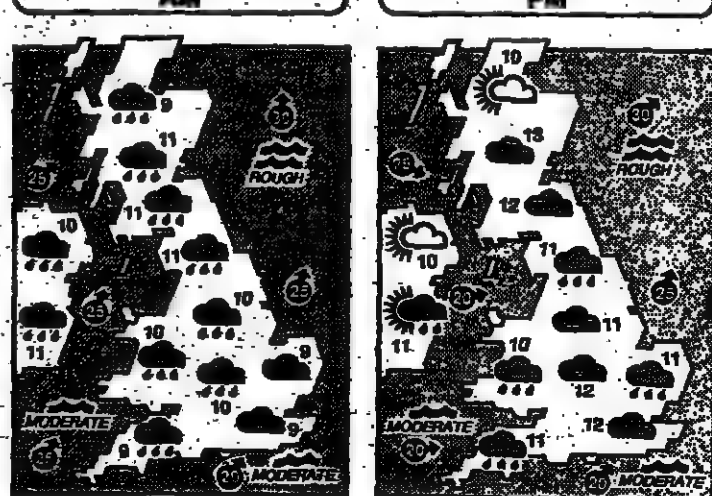
Solution to Puzzle No 17,317



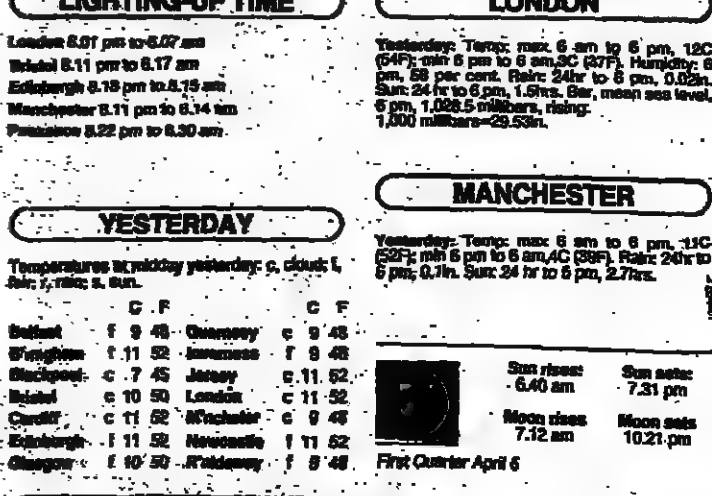
THE POUND

	Bank	Bank
Australia	2.51	2.51
Canada	1.25	1.25
Denmark	1.25	1.25
France	1.25	1.25
Germany	1.25	1.25
Italy	1.25	1.25
Japan	1.25	1.25
Netherlands	1.25	1.25
Sweden	1.25	1.25
Switzerland	1.25	1.25
USA	1.25	1.25

AM



PM



NOON TODAY



the Commons

ow goes et again

colled category. It was raised yesterday by Mr. Frank Haynes (Ashfield, Lab), a former fireman on the Southern Railway and a former coal miner. He is a reminder that Parliament also houses the nation's collection of Labour politicians. Who are ready to pay a £1 million charge. The Government is not doing very well.

Mr. Haynes protested to Mr. Richard Luce, the Minister for the Arts, that "even children are sometimes being charged to pay a £1 million charge. The Government is not doing very well."

"If the Hon. Gentleman thinks we are not doing as well as we should, I think we should think again," Luce replied. "More than 100 million have been spent on the museums since 1945. The Government is not doing very well."

Mr. Banks said that the Treasury had charged only 10p a year for the museums. "This is a very small charge," he said. "The Government is not doing very well."

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£22.5m for gh flowers

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PM

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MANCHESTER

Mr. Banks said that the Treasury had charged only 10p a year for the museums. "This is a very small charge," he said. "The Government is not doing very well."

TODAY

Mr. Banks said that the Treasury had charged only 10p a year for the museums. "This is a very small charge," he said. "The Government is not doing very well."

PART 2

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1582.2 (-38.4)
FT-SE 100
2002.5 (-46.1)
Bergains
5494.4 (50538)
USM (Datastream)
165.48 (-1.54)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6095 (+0.0075)
W German mark
2.9100 (-0.0120)
Trade-weighted
71.6 (-0.3)

Gunn to take B&C chair

Mr. John Gunn is to succeed Lord Croyer as chairman of British & Commonwealth Shipping, the investment group which yesterday also announced the creation of a subsidiary company containing the group's investments in areas outside financial services.

Rugby profits jump by 62%

The Rugby Football Union's profits for the year ended December 31 increased 62 per cent to £3.3 million, more than 5 per cent ahead of most analysts' expectations. The annual report, published yesterday, showed a 29 per cent increase in turnover to £23.9 million, against a very weak market. A final dividend of 3.9p was declared, making 7p for the year.

BPCC record

Pretax profits more than tripled to a record £80.3 million last year at the British Petroleum Corporation. Turnover was up 74 per cent to £4.6 billion and the dividend was raised 17 per cent to 14p.

Interest cut

The rate of interest paid on those National Savings Certificates that have completed their fixed term has been cut from 8.7 per cent to 7.5 per cent.

Rig receiver

Kestrel Marine, the Dundee-based oil rig fabrication company, has confirmed that Mr. Stewart Fraser of accountants Ernst and Whinney has been appointed Official Receiver.

Delta purchase

Delta has bought Econa Triflow of Redditch, near Birmingham, from Newman Jinks Group for £2.6 million, and has also acquired Thomas Porter and Sons, a Glasgow-based manufacturer of larger, specialist fittings.

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Temperatures	27	Commodities	32
Traded Opts	29	USM Prices	32

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS	
New York	2291.78 (-44.04)
Dow Jones	21627.57 (-550.43)
Nickel Dow	2774.88 (-23.86)
Hang Seng	2803.3 (-0.1)
Amsterdam	1711.5 (-20.9)
Frankfurt	1782.8 (+13.4)
Brussels	4410.84 (-69.97)
Geneva	4547 (-4.3)
Zurich	537.80 (-1.00)
London: FT 100	2002.5 (-46.1)
FT 30	1582.2 (-38.4)
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INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month Interbank: 9.5-9.75%
3-month sight bill: 9.5-9.75%
US Prime Rate: 7.5%
Federal Funds: 6.75%
3-month Treasury Bill: 6.75-6.89%
3-year bonds: 9.5-9.75%

CURRENCIES

London		New York	
£/\$	1.6095	£/\$	1.6100
£/DM	2.9100	£/DM	2.9100
£/Sfr	2.9100	£/Sfr	2.9100
£/Yen	148.22	£/Yen	148.22
£/Index	71.6	£/Index	71.6
ECU	1.75351	ECU	1.75351

Channon prepares counter measures for Cabinet Pressure goes on Japan

By Colin Northwood
Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, was putting together a list of measures yesterday that Britain could use to exert pressure on Japan to open up its markets, as an angry Parliament prepared to debate the issue later this week.

Japanese efforts to frustrate the bid by the British telecommunications group, Cable & Wireless, to secure a slice of Japan's international telephone market, caused outrage in the Commons last week.

Mrs Thatcher put her weight behind C & W earlier this month by writing to Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, urging fair treatment of the British group's bid for 20 per cent of a consortium seeking a licence to compete with Japan's present telecommunications monopoly.

Despite growing international pressure on Tokyo to improve foreign access to its market, Mr Nakasone has not yet replied and the Japanese Embassy made it clear yesterday that no reply was likely until the Japanese had made a firm decision about licensing.

Mr Channon, his ministers and senior officials were drawing up the options available to the Government in time for a Cabinet meeting on Thursday after Mrs Thatcher's return from Moscow.

The former Trade Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, yesterday described Mr Nakasone's failure to reply as "ill-mannered". Mr Brittan, just back from Japan, said on radio that C & W had brought to a head the wider issue of Japanese trade policy and he did not think the matter would blow over this time.

Punitive Japanese duties on Scotch whisky and the lack of reciprocity in financial services were also key issues at present.

The case of C & W was not about, he said, "it is still open for discussion." Japan's proposed change on opening its markets, however, had not produced anything concrete yet, Mr Brittan added.

He noted that the Japanese were not protectionist in the overt sense and it was more the people's reluctance to buy foreign goods that was the problem.

Mr Michael Howard, Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, visits Tokyo this week and will demand a clear timetable for Japan to give British financial institutions greater freedom by way of reciprocating the easy access Japanese securities houses and banks have to the City.

Mr Brittan was optimistic also about the opportunity for British exporters provided by the strengthening of the yen on the foreign exchange markets.

On Thursday, the Commons will debate opportunities for British investment in Japan, in a motion put down by Mr Michael Marshall, a Tory MP and former junior trade minister who now acts as an adviser to C & W.

He said yesterday that he was hopeful about preventing the Japanese from forcing C & W into a shotgun marriage with other firms competing for a Japanese telecommunications licence.

But he urged haste in bringing pressure to bear on Japan, since time was not with C & W.

The Commons select committee on trade and industry will not be taking up the Japan question until after Mr Howard's visit, but Mr Kenneth Warren, the Conservative chairman of the committee, said equal access to Japan's market in financial services was essential.

On C & W, he said the Japanese were trying to operate a "trick" and had deliberately isolated the British group.

Mr Warren pointed to United States' tough response to Japan on trade as indicative of it being "one step ahead" in putting on pressure.

Superdrug goes to Woolworth in £233m deal

By Colin Campbell
Woolworth Holdings, after its abortive takeover talks with Underwoods, yesterday made a £233 million agreed takeover bid for Superdrug Stores in a deal which will add a fourth specialist retail leg to its empire, and give it immediate access to a drugstore chain of 300 outlets stretching from Penzance to Dundee.

The controlling Goldstein family at Superdrug has already given irrevocable undertakings to accept in respect of their own shareholdings, which gives Woolworth 61 per cent acceptance.

The terms are 17 Woolworth shares for every 20 Superdrug, alternatively 646p cash per Superdrug share.

Mr Geoff Mulcahy, chief executive of Woolworth, said that both parties had been in talks "for some time" which culminated in the weekend takeover agreement, but denied Woolworth had been negotiating with Underwoods and Superdrug at the same time.

Stock market reaction was to see Superdrug shares rise, from 480p to 655p, but Woolworth shares, in line with a generally weaker market, shed 40p to 790p.

At the time the agreement was signed, Woolworth's deal was valued at £244 million.

The Goldstein family will own approximately 4 per cent of Woolworth equity after the deal, have entered into three year service contracts, and will be represented on the Woolworth's board.

The Woolworth chief executive said Superdrug was a "tailor-made business for us" and represented an exciting opportunity in specialist retailing.

Superdrug grafts onto the group's own retail outlets under the traditional Woolworth name, the B&Q operations and Comet.

Superdrug came to the stock market four years ago, in a highly popular issue attracting applications totalling £1.5 billion, making it 96 times oversubscribed. The shares were originally offered at 175p each, and on the first trading day reached 300p.

Yesterday they stood at 655p each. The Woolworth bid is worth 46 per cent over the value of Superdrug shares prior to the announcement, and City analysts agree that the price paid is not cheap. Woolworth is buying Superdrug, which made pretax profits of £12.3 million for the year ended February from a turnover of £202.9 million, on an exit price earnings ratio of over 30.

Mr Mulcahy, "tailor-made for us"

BT aims at better customer service

By Teresa Poole, Business Correspondent
Business customers should in the future be given firm delivery and connection commitments when ordering telecommunications equipment from British Telecom.

The promise is part of a corporate restructuring, aimed at improving customer service and commercial controls within the company, announced yesterday.

The UK Communications division has been created by a merger of the Inland Communications and Business Services divisions, and will coordinate the provision of network services and the supply of equipment in Britain.

The division is headed by Mr Mike Bett, who was managing director of Inland Communications.

British Telecom will be contractually committed to install equipment, such as multi-line branch exchanges, within an agreed time and to provide back-up services. Business customers can already choose customized aftercare service in line with the ServiceCare options announced earlier this year.

British Telecom has a backlog of work, particularly in London, because of the disruption caused by the recent engineers' strike and the continuing high level of disorders related to Big Bang.

News Corp buys US publisher

News Corporation is to acquire Harper & Row Publishers in a £187.5 million deal which is likely to lead to links between the American book publishing network.

News Corporation said that its United States subsidiary, News America Holdings Inc, has formed Harper Acquisition Inc, which will start a tender offer for all outstanding Harper & Row shares on or before Friday at a price of \$65.

Harper & Row's board has recommended its shareholders to accept the offer and approve the merger agreement.

News Corporation said that its proposed acquisition of Harper & Row has a value of about \$300 million.

The planned merger is subject to approvals under the Anti-Trust Improvements Act of 1976.

Mr Rupert Murdoch, chief executive officer of News Corporation, said: "Harper & Row is one of the great publishing companies in the world. Together with William Collins, we have the opportunity to develop a truly international book publishing network."

Under the planned scheme, Collins, in which News Corporation has a substantial interest, would take an equity stake in Harper & Row and Collins' senior executives, including Ian Chapman, its chairman and chief executive, will become involved in the management of the American company.

The two firms have worked together in recent years on a number of projects, including the hugely successful "A Day in the Life of America".

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Airline plan for ILG

By Michael Tate
Mr Harry Goodman, who has built International Leisure Group at about £130 million, and declare that it is the board's intention to bring the company back to the stock market in or about 1990 as a fully-fledged airline operator.

By then it would have a fleet of 26 planes, and would be coming to a market which will have had plenty of opportunity to understand the airline market.

ILG has applied for a number of scheduled European routes out of Gatwick, encouraged by the European Commission's intention to break the existing monopolies. It has plans for cut-price early morning business flights to Europe's main cities.

The office development marks another significant westward extension to the City of London.

The former News International printing centre in Fleet Street has been sold in a deal worth £72 million.

The Whitefriars development site formerly used for the production of the News of the World and Sun newspapers is being bought by the Japanese construction company, Kumagai Gumi UK.

News International owns 90 per cent of the site with the rest owned by the Ironmongers Company. News International newspapers are now printed in Wapping.

A number of bids were received when the site was put up for tender, with offers from developers, overseas companies and British institutions.

There is planning permission for 329,000 sq ft in two separate buildings. The first, fronting Fleet Street, provides 43,150 sq ft where the existing facade will be substantially retained. Behind this will be a courtyard to the main building of 286,500 sq ft of air-conditioned offices around a central atrium.

The office development marks another significant westward extension to the City of London.

Wickins agrees to sell for £196m Hawley Group to buy BCA

By Cliff Feltham
The country's biggest second hand car salesman, Mr David Wickins, yesterday agreed to sell his British Car Auctions group, which he started after the war with £460, to Michael Ashcroft's Hawley Group for £196 million.

But there was immediate speculation that the get-together could be upset by a rival bid after it emerged that a US group had been on the brink of launching a bid for BCA.

Mr Wickins admitted a number of likely predators had been looking at the business. One suggestion was that the US giant General Electric was interested.

Mr Wickins, aged 67, and his board own just over 3 per cent of BCA and are supporting the bid. Hawley managed to pick up 10 per cent of BCA shares in the market last week, without alerting attention, to lift its stake to 14.3 per cent.

Mr Ashcroft - who at 40 was born three weeks after Mr Wickins opened his first auction centre - says BCA will provide a fourth leg to his group which will then be capitalized at about £1 billion.

It is involved in cleaning and building services, hospital housekeeping and food, and security and communication services. More than 60 per cent of the profits of the enlarged group will come from the United States.

BCA, which operates 14 auction centres in the United Kingdom, has a similar number in the United States where it is keen to expand. Mr Wickins claims that without the financial backing provided by Hawley it would have been necessary to go back to shareholders to raise more funds.

Mr Wickins said he intends to remain with the business for the next three years and will join the Hawley board. "I have been looking around for a long time to find someone who can take over from me and look after my workforce and Mr Ashcroft is the ideal man," he said.

The pair were involved in a number of deals before Mr Wickins severed his connection with Midpex, an international investment vehicle, pointing out that the two men did not always "see eye to eye."

Yesterday Mr Wickins said: "Talk that we had a row was rubbish. We just felt it was right to go separate ways."

Some BCA followers were puzzled by the merger yesterday, concluding it was a defensive move by Mr Wickins.

When David Wickins left the Navy after the war and tried to sell his 9hp Riley Lynx Tourer he made an important discovery. "No one knew the value of anything," he said. He had offered the car for sale at £300 and was swamped with buyers.

So he joined forces with his brother John, hired a field at Frimley in Surrey, found another 14 cars, and started his first auction business. That Riley fetched £400 and now the whole group, with 14 auction centres in this country and another 14 in the United States, is on the verge of changing hands for £196 million.

Mr Wickins says he will carry on for another three years helping his new partner Michael Ashcroft to build up the US end of the business.

But Mr Wickins's followers find it hard to believe the charismatic and forthright motor dealer will be content to take his orders from someone else, even if he has declared Mr Ashcroft is his chosen successor.

Something like 500,000 second hand cars go under the hammer of BCA in the United Kingdom every year, with another 800,000 auctioned in the United States.

Last year it reported pretax profits of £13.3 million and in the latest half year announced earnings of £7.3 million.

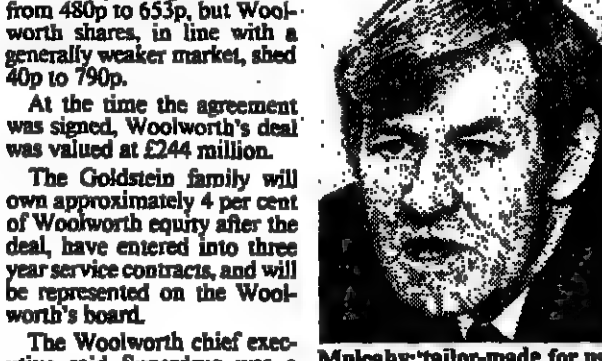
But Mr Wickins has in recent times attracted almost as much attention for his dealings out of the auction centres, buying and selling stakes - sometimes in partnership with Mr Ashcroft - in a variety of different companies, including the Group Lotus car firm, Atwoods, the sand and gravel business where Mr Dennis Thatcher, the Prime Minister's husband, is on the board, and Healey, the motor dealers.

His reputation for some shrewd deals convinces many stock market operators that yesterday's get-together with Hawley may not be as cut and dried as it appeared and Mr Wickins may still have a surprise up his sleeve.

"It could be his way of flushing out any other bidders," observed one BCA analyst.



Feeling the strain: Japanese foreign exchange dealers at work in Tokyo yesterday



Mulcahy: "tailor-made for us"

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BUSINESS SUMMARY

Buyout company goes for market listing

Workers who supported a buyout of their company from British Steel have seen the value of their average £400 investment leap to £4,400. The company, Victrolite, of Hitchin, Herts, which makes plastic pipes and fittings for the gas and water industry, is preparing for a full stock market quotation.

More than 600 employees subscribed for an average of 400 £1 shares each to finance the £15 million buyout. Other cash came from the City and today, accountants value the shares at £11.1. Pretax profits for last year were £5.4 million on turnover of almost £44 million. The company is seeking acquisitions to reduce dependence on its main customers, such as the water boards and British Gas.

Back to profit for Boustead

The change in direction at engineering and Far East trading group Boustead started to show through in the second half of last year and, after four years in the red, the company made a pretax profit of £380,000 against a loss of £3,119,000 in 1985. Disposals and currency translations reduced turnover from £43.189 million to £38.254 million. The company returns to dividend payments, with 0.1p.

Australian audits plea

Creative accounting is jeopardizing the international credibility of Australian companies, says Mr Henry Bosch, the National Companies and Securities Commission chairman. He wants to outlaw unethical auditing methods used to distort profits. The "dressing-up" of financial results was increasing alarmingly because of competition among corporations and accounting firms.

Norank merger talks

Norank, the USM-quoted merchandising and display systems manufacturer, is discussing the possibility of a merger with Spong Holdings, the clothing, homeware and creative services group. Norank, which recently reported double profits of £888,000 for 1986 on turnover of £2.45 million, specializes in record and video cassette stacking systems for chains like Virgin, Oxo Price and Woolworth.

But although Mr Bob Morton, the chairman, is confident about the future and Norank's profits are expected to reach £1.2 million this year, the company has been thinking about acquisitions, partly to soothe City fears that it is too dependent on a single product range. Spong's shares slipped 1p to 28p on news of the talks.

Opec output at 10-year low

Opec attempts to support its new oil target price of \$18 a barrel have resulted in the cartel cutting output to its lowest level for more than a decade. Output from the 13 member states is 14.6 million barrels a day, compared with its official ceiling of 15.8 mbd, which began this month. According to the Middle East Economic Survey, Opec production in January was 16.3 mbd, in February it was 16.9 mbd.

Sharp rise at Bellway

Bellway, the housebuilding group, announced a sharp jump in pretax profits to £1.725 million for the half-year ended January 31, up from £1.324 million previously - although turnover dipped to £24.708 million from £26.857 million. The company announced an interim dividend of 3p. Bellway has conditionally agreed to buy DFW Golding, a private housebuilding firm based in Kelvedon, Essex.

Saudi bank profits fall

Saudi International Bank, the consortium bank 50 per cent owned by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority, yesterday reported a £900,000 million deterioration in pretax profits during 1986 because of increased investment costs. Profits dropped from £11.1 million to £10.2 million. The bank said costs had risen by about £4 million as part of the increased emphasis on investment banking which required added investment in systems and personnel.

Non-interest income increased by 38 per cent to £15.1 million, more than 30 per cent of overall income. This was double the contribution three years ago. Funds doubled during the year as capital continued to flow out of Saudi Arabia while the bank boosted its presence in selected capital market areas such as Eurocommercial paper. Net interest income dropped 4.3 per cent to £32.4 million.

STOCK MARKET

£9bn wiped off share values in record fall

By Michael Clark

Share prices on the London stock market suffered their biggest ever one-day fall in terms of straight numbers yesterday following a 66-point fall on Wall Street in early trading.

Almost £9 billion was wiped from the value of quoted shares as market-makers marked prices sharply lower in an attempt to thwart the expected flood of sellers.

The FT 30 share index opened 10.7 and continued drifting throughout the day, but the fall became more pronounced after hours when news of an early shakeout in New York started to filter through. At the finish, the index was 38.4 down at 1,582.2.

The fall in the wider FT-SE 100 share index was even more dramatic. At its worst the "footie" plunged 54.9 before closing slightly off its worst levels with a loss of 46.1 at 2,002.5. The previous biggest fall was on February 10, when it lost 35.8. In percentage terms its fall was only 2.4 per cent, its biggest ever fall was 2.8 per cent back in May, 1984.

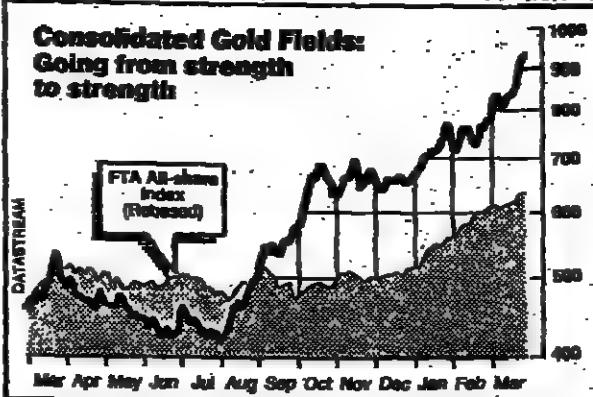
The alpha stocks bore the brunt of the mark-down with double-figure falls among many of them. Trading had started in a nervous vein following a panic selling evening in Japan where the Nikkei Dow Jones industrial average fell 550 points. The fear of an all-out trade war with Japan kept the buyers firmly entrenched on the sidelines.

Investors were also worried by further evidence over the weekend of the strong showing of Liberal/SDP Alliance in the opinion polls. Government securities were also on the run as hopes of an early cut in bank base rates continued to evaporate. Prices at the longer end fell more than 1%.

Consolidated Gold Fields, the mining finance group, continues to scale new heights. Last week it burst through the £9-mark helped by solid support from the US and South Africa and extended its run with a rise of 17p to a new all-time high of 966p yesterday.

The price has come up from about 400p since the autumn and, according to a number of analysts, is set to do even better in the months ahead. The shares have been added to the shopping lists of several fund managers who rate the shares a "buy" on fundamentals alone.

The market expects pretax



profits for the current year to almost double to £215 million, boosting earnings from 35p to about the 80p-level where the price drops from 26 to 12.

The weakness of the dollar has been attracting renewed support for gold with the price of the precious metal climbing above the \$420 an ounce level.

USM-quoted York Mount Group, which climbed 36p to 100p in the past few weeks, is said to be courting Nenton, the British trailer rental subsidiary of Freshfields America. Nenton is reckoned to be asking for about £30 million (£18.7 million). York Mount fell 3p to 91p valuing it at £12 million.

over the weekend. Marketmakers have also been casting envious eyes at Coms Gold's 26 per cent stake in Newmont Mining, the American gold mining group. Some dealers claim the next stop for the shares is the £10-level.

Kio Thuto-Zinc, the other big mining finance house, was also being chased higher, rising 9p to a peak of 823p. The shares have been a dull market and analysts are looking for a downturn in pretax profits from £257 million to £230 million for 1986 when the group reports in a few weeks. But a number of analysts claim the shares are looking cheap and are already discounting the bad news. Profits for the present year are expected to recover to about £255 million.

Bowater Industries came in for profit-taking after Friday's flurry of activity, falling 7p to 464p. Reports that Warburg Securities had upgraded its profit estimate for the current year to £44 million are wide of the mark. Warburg says it is sticking with its original forecast of £42 million compared with last year's figure of £32.4 million.

Profit-taking was also taking its toll of the Independent Television companies follow-

ing the sector's recent re-rating. The late Lord Thomson's claim that owning a television company "was a licence to print money" was said to apply just as much today.

There has been some hefty buying of television shares in recent weeks, but some dealers claim they have risen, too far, too fast and that some profit-taking was inevitable.

Falls were seen in Anglia Television 12p to 516p; Central Independent Television 36p to 584p; Grampian Television 'A' 9p to 95p; HTV (Holdings) 29p to 859p; Scottish Television 11p to 555p; TSW 12p to 74p; TV South 25p to 404p; Thames Television 26p to 502p; Ulster Television 12p to 143p; and Yorkshire Television 34p to 334p.

GEC lost a further 6p to 205p after the problems with its Foxhunter radar system contract for the Ministry of Defence were again highlighted. An inquiry by the MoD may decide to scrap the whole project which is currently six years behind schedule. The MoD is said to be

already looking around for alternatives to Foxhunter and may have already looked at a rival American system. A decision to scrap Foxhunter would come as a severe blow to GEC - just three months after it was forced to scrap the Nimrod early warning radar system which cost almost £1 billion to develop.

The sharemarket yesterday also hit Johnson & Johnson, the specialist engineer, which fell 3p to 41.5p. The shares had been nudging toward their peak of 46p in recent weeks. Talk of a possible bid for the company has resurfaced. At these levels, the group is worth £45 million.

The index had dropped about the same amount in the initial hour, rebounded to end the morning ahead nearly 14 points and tumbled again in the afternoon. Trading was dominated by the expiry of March contracts in index futures.

It was a very sleepy market, drifting lower on an absence of buying orders rather than any heavy selling, a broker commented.

SYDNEY: The All-Ordinary index jumped 20.5 to 1,711 as gold shares surged on bullion price rises. The index for gold stocks soared 205.3 points after last week's strong gains.

Plessey was another weak market falling 11p to 237p after a downgrading by brokers.

Plessey Property slipped 1p to 356p despite the news that rival British Land had increased its holding from 5 per cent to 7.26 per cent or 2.5 million shares. Last month Plessey reported a drop in pretax profits from £5.84 million to £4.38 million. British Land fell 4p to 97p.

FRANKFURT: Share prices closed raggedly mixed with a lower bias after quiet trading on the Frankfurt stock exchange yesterday, brokers said. The Commerzbank index gained 13.4 points to 1,792.8.

Traders said the dollar's decline over the weekend triggered some profit-taking last week. The dollar was officially priced at DM1.8063 at the Frankfurt foreign exchange fixing, down from DM1.8231 on Friday.

Price declines were heaviest among leading international blue chip shares such as Deutsche Bank and Daimler-Benz that were the biggest gainers last week. Other shares generally moved by less than DM3.00 each in either direction.

TOKYO: Stock prices plunged on heavy volume for their second-largest single-day loss on record yesterday, with the Nikkei Dow Jones index closing at 21,627.57, down 550.45.

Export-led, securities and power utility issues fell on the dollar's momentary dip to a post-war low of 144.70 yen.

Kyocera plummeted 300 points to close at 3,520 while TDK fell 190 points to 2,910. Matsushita Electric was down 110 points to 1,630 while NEC slid 130 points to 1,460.

HONG KONG: Most share prices fell in busy trading, as volatile trading in Hang Seng stock index futures spilled over into the equity market. The Hang Seng index finished down 23.86 points at 2,774.88.

The index had dropped about the same amount in the initial hour, rebounded to end the morning ahead nearly 14 points and tumbled again in the afternoon. Trading was dominated by the expiry of March contracts in index futures.

SINGAPORE: Stock prices eased in quiet trading as the sideways movement of the past few days continued. The Straits Times industrial index slipped 6.62 to close at 1,073.42.

It was a very sleepy market, drifting lower on an absence of buying orders rather than any heavy selling, a broker commented.

SYDNEY: The All-Ordinary index jumped 20.5 to 1,711 as gold shares surged on bullion price rises. The index for gold stocks soared 205.3 points after last week's strong gains.

WALL STREET

Dow prices plummet

New York (Reuters) - Wall Street shares tumbled in heavy trading early yesterday, in a dramatic and emotional reaction to the Reagan Administration's imposition of duties on Japanese products and the subsequent sharp decline in the dollar.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which fell about 37 points on Friday when a weak dollar triggered a spate of profit-taking, fell 65.91 points to 2,269.89 at one early stage when the transport indicator was down 28.71 to 906.73.

The broader New York Stock Exchange composite index fell 4.85 points to 163.57. Declining shares led advancing issues by about 12 to one.

Technology stocks led the retreat. There is fear of a trade war with Japan developing, one trader said.

Transportation shares were down 28.71 to 906.73. The Dow Jones industrial average, which fell about 37 points on Friday when a weak dollar triggered a spate of profit-taking, fell 65.91 points to 2,269.89 at one early stage when the transport indicator was down 28.71 to 906.73.

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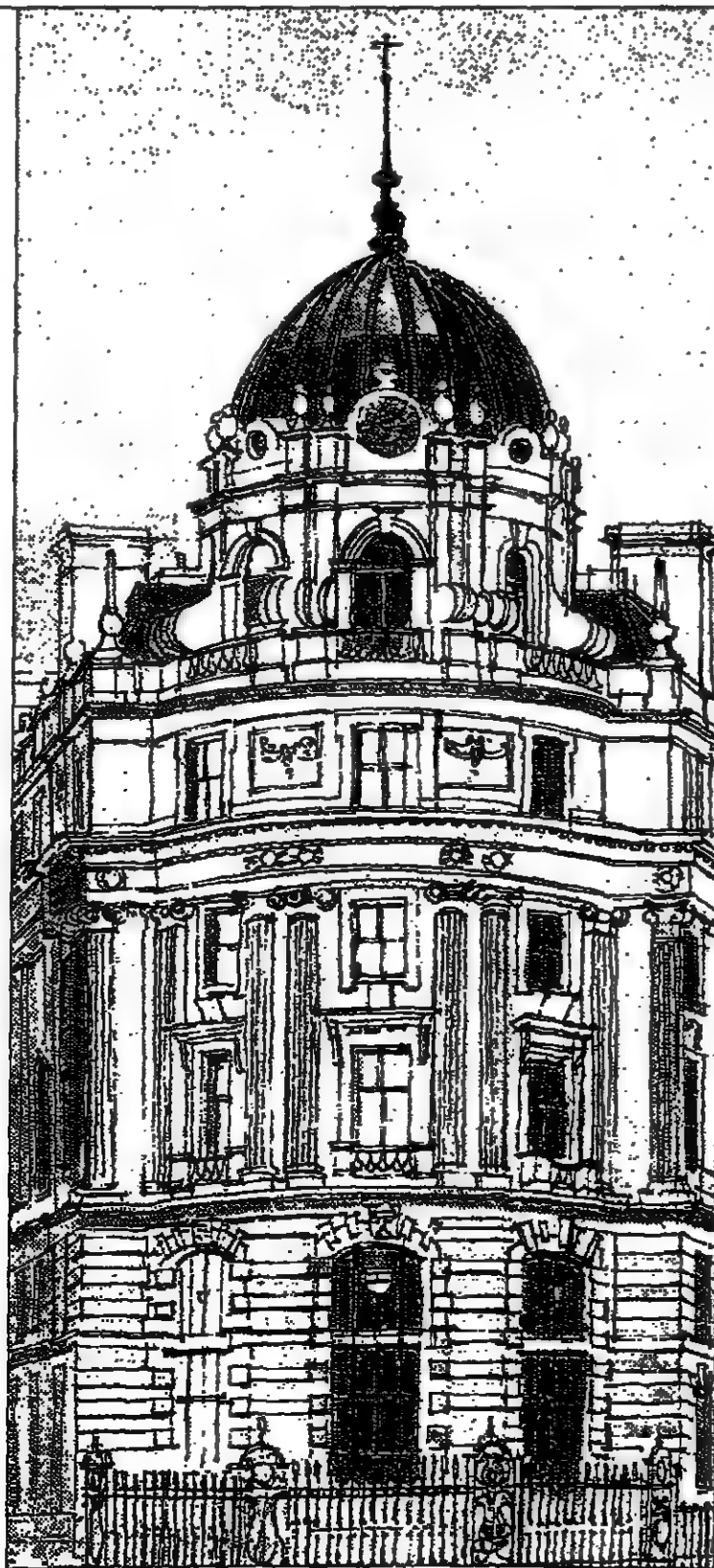
1986, a strong recovery.

1986 was a year during which the industry, and Royal particularly, was able to achieve a quite substantial consolidation.

The benefit of the actions taken by us in 1986 and prior years is reflected in the strong recovery in pre-tax profits from £41.4m to £304.8m.

With the improved trading results and the firmness in international stockmarkets, the net worth of the company increased by £560m to £2,463m (1.036p per share), inclusive of the balance sheet value of long term business, of £400m (1.69p per share).

In view of both the current improvement in results and the outlook for the future, the company now has the ability to pay a higher level of dividend.



Royal Insurance

The final recommended dividend is 20.5p per share, making a total for the year of 31.0p, an increase of 20.4% over 1985.

The increased benefits now emerging are the result of the improvement strategies implemented in recent years. We anticipate further enhancement of profits deriving from these strategies in the remainder of the decade.

As an aid to the marketability of our shares, the Directors have decided to recommend a 1 for 1 capitalisation issue.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd April 1987 at 11.30 a.m. in the Insurance Hall of The Chartered Insurance Institute, 20 Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HY.

Please send me a copy of the Report and Accounts for the year ending December 31st 1986.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Hot-air promotion

One of the last acts of British Car Auctions chairman David Wickens before the merger of his firm with Hawley group was to arrange free flying lessons in a hot air balloon for Prince Michael of Kent. Following a dinner with the Prince, at which he claimed that hot air ballooning was "the best environmental form of flying", Wickens - or rather BCA - splashed out £12,000 on a balloon and basket. The company is due to take delivery of its new promotional toy, complete with pilot, in about three weeks and the Prince, who already holds a private pilot's licence, has, the sold, been promised lessons. "If you have a PPL you know the basics, but you still need to complete 12 hours flying time and a written test and flight before you get your balloon licence," says Wickens' daughter Sarah Katzler, who works for the firm. "It will also be a good promotional medium," she adds.



Jailhouse rock

San Francisco investment bank Hambrecht and Quist has taken the novel idea of throwing a party for 600 clients and other guests on the derelict but infamous high-security island-prison of Alcatraz. The party, on April 27, is costing upwards of \$70,000. And, according to a spokesman for the bank, it will serve as an early reminder "of certain Wall Streeters who are facing sentences in Federal penitentiaries."

Happy camp

Sir Fred Pontin, now aged 80, was "highly delighted" on hearing of the ex-management buyout which had restored the independence of the holiday company he founded back in 1946. He was told the news immediately the £57.5 million deal with current owner Bass had been concluded. "Sir Fred trained us all," says new sales and marketing director Mike Austin, "and he's very pleased for us." A special tribute to him is being planned once the new management is properly installed.

Out East

Hopes within the Department of Trade that Jonathan Greenwood, the securities dealer, might have returned to Britain from Israel in early March, have not, it seems, been fulfilled. A colleague at The Times yesterday received a humorous letter from him, posted in Israel, claiming that he was an unjust victim of AIDS - accused "of illegally dealing" syndrome. Greenwood, aged 28, is at the centre of a government investigation into insider dealing and his sister, a secretary at the Office of Fair Trading, has been suspended on full pay on what her colleagues refer to as "yardening leave".

For one of the most efficient telephone companies in the world, it has to be said to be believed. A letter sent to a colleague by the corporate planning department of British Telecom, an official headed "note-paper", included every piece of communicative information one could possibly require except... a telephone number. The said colleague had to ring directory enquiries to get it.

Fair Kopp

It could be bad news for fraudulent City whizz-kids with Swiss bank accounts. Switzerland's answer to Inspector Clouseau, Mrs Elisabeth Kopp, is on a two-day trip to Britain to meet the Press and have talks with Home Secretary Douglas Hurd about "mutual legal assistance". Mrs Kopp is - as her name might suggest - one of the Swiss Government's seven ruling federal council members with responsibility for both justice and the police. "If a foreign government has evidence to suggest that a Swiss account has been connected with crime, the bank secrecy rule can be lifted," explains a spokesman for the Swiss embassy. "This procedure is now being extended to money laundering."

Carol Leonard

IN THE MARKET

Wall St and London melt in the Rising Sun

Funny things are happening on the way to the market. Gilt yields are moving back up towards 9.5 per cent. The dollar is coming under extreme pressure, as a trade war breaks out between the United States and Japan. Interest rates in New York are starting to rise. Gold, or a close proxy, is booming. Markets are churning again in search of touchstones of value.

The gilt-edged market went into the February trade figures last Thursday with a heavy heart. Traders had been warned that the figures would be highly significant, holding the key to future interest rate movements. Just ahead of the numbers, gilts were yielding 9 per cent, or 100 points less than base rates. Money market rates were about 9 1/2 per cent.

The trade figures were sensational. Instead of a current account deficit, a surplus of £376 million was reported, as exports boomed. The gilt market took the obvious point immediately. Good trade figures equated with immediate sanction for a fresh 1/4 point cut in base rates to 9 1/4 per cent. Prices took off.

The rally collapsed almost immediately, and gilts have slumped subsequently. The authorities warned that the trade data would be significant. But their point seems to have been far more subtle than the market assumed.

Arguably, the authorities were pointing out that the improvement in the trade balance would not be jeopardized by a runaway British domestic credit boom. Base rates would have to stay higher for a little longer. It is possible the authorities also helped to smash market sentiment. Period rates in the money market were edging up ahead of the trade figures, as the authorities deliberately undersupplied credit to take out daily shortages. This approach looked inconsistent with falling gilt yields.

The authorities may have also had stock to sell back to the market, which was purchased in the New Year, when the Exchequer was in heavy



Opec president Riwanu Lukman: his cartel has succeeded in stabilizing the price of oil above \$18 a barrel

surplus. Did the Government Broker dump the equivalent of a tap-stock on the market during last Thursday's trading session? But any precautionary moves toward gilts will have been motivated also by apprehension about the gathering international financial storm, in particular the possible fallout effect of the US-Japan imbroglio on London.

Key factors now for markets are the weakness of the dollar against the yen; Washington's decision last Friday to impose punitive tariffs on Japanese goods; and the shocked response in Tokyo. The month old Plaza Two deal to stabilize the dollar is coming under heavy pressure as the US currency slumps toward Y140. Central banks have spent billions trying to hold the dollar to no avail. At bottom, the issue is one of complicity. Markets are convinced that the US is half-hearted in its resolve to peg the dollar, because the trade balance has still shown no signs of improvement. Hitting the dollar is now the easiest way in town to make money.

To an extent, this scenario is a rerun of what was happening last year. What has

changed is the atmosphere in the US bond market. A year ago, the fall in the dollar was seen to be fairly safe, from an inflation angle, because oil prices were falling. Not so last week. The yield on the long bond rose sharply last week to close on 7.7 per cent and the entire US interest rate structure shows signs of shifting upward.

Precisely why the bond market should interpret the fall in the dollar in this way looks to be partly a matter of mood, partly of fear. A likely Japanese form of retaliation against US protectionism may be either a straightforward refusal to buy more bonds at the US Treasury auctions, or more intriguingly, a willingness to bid at the auctions but only at yields attractive to Tokyo.

But US bond traders' apprehensions are also founded on an intuitive sense of valuation. The dollar as a reserve currency has a number of natural inverses, like gold and oil, which are almost currencies in their own right. As the dollar falls, the value of these proxy currencies tends to rise, until a politically explosive level of valuation is reached. At this point, US policy makers need to restore

equilibrium within the triangle of dollar-gold-oil.

Gold shares have soared by more than 40 per cent on world stock markets since the beginning of the year. Some South African gold mining stocks have jumped by the same amount in the last few trading sessions. Where gold shares go, gold will tend to follow. At \$424 an ounce, gold has underperformed gold mining shares this year; but word is getting round fast. Some traders foresee an explosion in gold prices within weeks.

Again, there are good fundamental reasons for assuming that the oil price will remain firm and even start appreciating. The latest Opec agreement has successfully stabilized the oil price above \$18 a barrel. Recent moves may tend to push it higher. Opec output is reportedly below 14 million barrels a day, as output in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iran, Nigeria and Libya drops away. More dramatically, erstwhile close rivals within Opec (Saudi Arabia and Algeria) in a significant show of solidarity, have agreed to harden the terms of Opec production agreements to push oil prices higher.

Ultimately, the upward movement in gold and oil prices amounts to a flight into quality, which is bound to disturb US policy-makers. By extension, it suggests there are built-in constraints to the amount by which the dollar can fall against the yen or the mark. Ultimately, US policy-makers may have no choice but to bite on the bullet.

London is awkwardly placed relative to these international developments. The pounds has been strong against the dollar, and a rise in the oil price would, pro forma, do the British currency no harm. Equally, sterling would attract selling pressure, if British rates fell just when rates in New York started to rise. Retaliatory action by Japan against Britain cannot be ruled out either. Even Downing Street joined enthusiastically in the attack on Tokyo trading practices. Do the Japanese investment houses have plans to dump gilts?

The British monetary authorities may have decided to play it long for the time being, and defer further falls in base rates. They may not be displaced by the recent correction to the gilts market.

Christopher Dunn

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Protectionism sends a shiver through markets

Dealers in money, in whatever form, rarely allow themselves the luxury of debate: time is money and they react rapidly to new and evolving situations. Markets develop a momentum of their own which for a time at least will carry them in one direction - up or down.

Yesterday's collapse in the US dollar, the crashing of Wall Street stock and bond prices and the flight of gilt-edged and equity prices in London reflect one perceived truth. If, from a position of acute balance of payments and budgetary weakness, the United States wishes to take on the Japanese financial empire, it does so at the risk of severe damage. Not all the cards are in Japan's hand but the Japanese, with their vast overseas earnings, have been mainly instrumental in covering the American balance of payments deficit. The merest hint that American trade protectionist measures against Japanese manufactured exports might provoke Japanese retaliation through the currency and bond markets is enough, as we saw yesterday, to send New York into a spasm.

There were signs on Sunday that more sensitive souls in the Reagan Administration had recognized that the stakes were too high. At the end of last week, the President announced that the United States would impose, on April 17, punitive tariffs on selected Japanese semiconductor exports in retaliation for violations by Japanese firms of the US-Japanese semiconductor agreement reached last September. The violence of the Japanese reaction, which is a measure of their new economic strength, clearly shook the Americans and brought them face-to-face with the unpleasant prospect of damage far greater than posed by the dumping of computer chips. By Sunday, Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary of Commerce, was backing away with more conciliatory talk of a different solution of the problem.

Financial markets however do not hang about waiting for the American Administration to re-order its priorities. They are aware of American dependence on Japanese capital and the consequences, in market terms, of even a brief diminution in the flow of Japanese funds to New York. The dollar has been under pressure for several days and the further it falls the greater the pressure on the US inflation rate. There are of course two views about the right value of the dollar, with the bankers much less sanguine about its continuing decline than Republican politicians desperately looking for a way out of the Reaganomics hole.

The immediate fear is a resort to a tighter monetary policy. If the condition of the dollar results in a tilting of influence in favour of the Federal Reserve Board, this is likely to happen. The Federal Open Market Committee is

due to meet today, obviously aware of the dollar problem but equally appraised of current signs of weakness in the American economy. As bond prices fell, yields rose as did money rates.

The switching out of the dollar was into the two main hard currencies, the Japanese yen and the West German mark, and into two commodities, namely gold (the ideal hedge against a falling dollar) and oil, where prices recently have been noticeably firm. The return to centre stage of the mark is interesting. The Frankfurt stock market has been suffering from the belief that the strengthening mark will hit profit margins of West German exporting companies, thereby restricting if not reducing their earnings growth. Solid reasoning but seemingly now overtaken by the currency argument: if the mark benefits from switching out of dollars, then there is likely to be a worthwhile return from switching into German stocks.

The contrast with Japanese bond markets is not dissimilar. The yield on the Japanese benchmark stock, the 89th issue 1996, has been down as low as 4.08 per cent and there is a persistent feeling that the next yen issue will herald a cut in the discount rate. The Bank of Japan has been at some pains to kill such speculation but so far without success.

This concentration on the Japanese and West German currencies, and the Tokyo and Frankfurt markets will continue until the New York bond market has found a level which the value of the dollar can support.

It is however easy to see that the immediate fate of bank base rates, where until yesterday another half point cut had been confidently expected, and the course of gilt-edged prices are wholly dependent on Washington-Tokyo.

In these circumstances London, as a domestic market, is a sideshow. But London too has come to lean on Japanese investment, in both gilts and equities, and the possibility of the Japanese losing interest is bearish.

Moreover Japanese resentment at America's resort to unilateral protectionism at their expense (the first such cut since the 1939-45 war incidentally) could spill over into the United Kingdom. Mrs Thatcher has been vigorous in pursuing the case of Cable and Wireless to be allowed a significant presence in the Japanese telecommunications market. She has not only written to embattled Prime Minister Nakasone, protesting against Japanese protectionism, but also sought the active support of President Reagan in the same cause. The shuffling of American feet probably means that Mrs Thatcher will find herself isolated, and the victim, along with Cable and Wireless, of Japanese anger.

TEMPUS

Another chain in the link for Woolworth

Woolworth hardly takes time to catch breath before it is off again. Yesterday it was an agreed 17-for-20 bid for Superdrug Stores. If not tomorrow, then sometime soon, it will be something else because Woolworth is not short of ambition - in short, to become the most profitable retailer in Britain.

The swoop into Superdrug neatly satisfies the goals of both. Superdrug, already spending \$11 million a year and opening 50 new outlets annually, wants to expand at a faster pace.

Woolworths, not even bloodied let alone unbowed, after recent takeover talks with Underwoods, snaps up a group with an estimated 37 per cent slice of the drug store market, and now boasts a fourth distinctive specialist store chain.

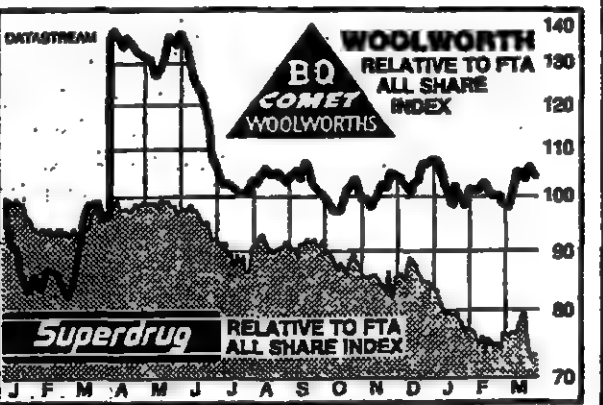
There seems no reason why Woolworths, with 297 Superdrug outlets rising to 600 and the potential to go to 1,000, will not soon challenge Boots on its own ground.

The price Woolworth is paying is not cheap. The exit price earnings ratio is over 30 on historic Superdrug earnings, which eases to 25 on current year projections and because of the share element there will be an initial 3 or 4 per cent dilution in earnings a share.

The obvious factor is not, however, that serious. Superdrug shareholders faced with the choice of taking Woolworth shares or the cash alternative of 646p (compared with a pre-deal market price of 480p) will have to watch how the respective shares move ahead of final decision day at the end of next month.

Woolworth's share price was weaker yesterday in line with the market, but even so the paper offer values each Superdrug at 670p against yesterday's price of 653p, and the controlling Superdrug directors are taking shares for substantially all of their holdings. There is little harm if ordinary shareholders follow suit.

With irrevocable undertakings in respect of 61 per cent of Superdrug shareholders accepting Woolworth's offer, and a warm reception yesterday, the deal is virtually sewn up.



talks came to naught. They saw their share price down another 11p at 184p yesterday, and probably wish that they had changed chemists.

BPCC

Mr Robert Maxwell's ambition for the British Printing & Communication Corporation of turnover of £1 billion is within his grasp. Last year group turnover rose 74 per cent to £462 million and pretax profits more than tripled from £25.5 million to £80.3 million.

Earnings per share, however, rose a more modest 36 per cent to 25.2p due to the higher number of shares in issue.

Profits in the core printing business rose 37 per cent to £35 million. The newspaper control printing company, which began trading in January 1986, contributed £11.6 million. The acquisition of Pergamon Journals last April allowed publishing profits to rise from virtually nothing to £16.8 million.

Meanwhile other activities, mainly interest on cash, generated £16.9 million from a loss in the previous year. Turnover this year will approach the magic £1 billion even without further acquisitions. There will also be a full year from two US acquisitions and Pergamon.

Mr Maxwell has his sights set firmly on moving BPCC up the ranks from fifth place to number two in printing in the US.

There, he will be looking to gobble up some of the junior morsels in the fragmented US printing industry.

Access to finance will not be a problem. Despite the frenetic corporate activity of last year, the company still has no net debt and cash resources of £200 million.

Rugby Portland Cement Group

The proposed change of name from The Rugby Portland Cement Group to The Rugby Group is hardly original, but it puts into words the recent realignment of the company.

More than £100 million has been spent over two years on timber businesses which earn a return on capital in excess of that of the cement business.

Rugby may eventually move away from cement entirely especially now it is aware of the attractions of other industries. In the meantime, it is committed to improve further its cement earnings capacity.

Two thirds of the 89 per cent increase in UK cement profits came from higher volumes. Demand gained momentum throughout last year and carried forward into this year. Rugby's market share has ranged in the high teens in recent years and is now at the top end of this spectrum.

Following the disbanding of the Common Price Agreement, major customers are gently jostling for position. Barring unforeseen circumstances demand should remain firm enabling the market to settle down and perhaps in time allow a price increase.

The disbanding of the CPA also enables UK producers to compete with importers.

Underlying this demand pattern, there is still considerable scope to reduce costs further.

1929?

Many of today's participants in the soaring stock markets of the world are much too young to remember the optimism and confidence in the future that was the main fuel of the twenties' bull markets. Most of those who had total belief in paper investments were brought down to earth with a major bump and learned, to their cost, it does not pay to keep all your eggs in one basket.

In the United States there is a growing trend amongst those who are concerned about the U.S. budget deficit, the third world banking crisis and the falling confidence in the Reagan administration and its ability to handle the U.S. economy in the aftermath of Irangate. A falling dollar on world currency markets is not the solution, isolationist policies are also not the answer on a planet being made smaller and smaller by high technology. When the U.S. economy does sneeze, the rest of the world will get a severe dose of terminal flu.

Throughout the world cautious investors are turning in increasing numbers to all forms of hard currency - Gold, Platinum, Silver, Stamps and Antiques. All of these have merit but there is another tangible asset that is overlooked by many. The most stable of hard currencies are high-grade diamonds, in all but one or two years since World War II they have appreciated in value by as much as 30% in some years.

It could well be in your best interest to read our FREE Diamond Guide and other FREE publications that put the case for tangible investments that you actually hold and control. If you would like FREE copies without obligation and periodic newsletters, call us on the number listed below or fill out and return the coupon, you are under no obligation.

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FOR OUTSTANDING RESULTS,

National Westminster Bank PLC

Pre-tax profits	£1,011m
Post-tax profits	£621m
Earnings per share	94p
Ordinary dividend per share	20.5p
Total assets	£83.3bn

PRESS FOR ACTION

In his statement to shareholders in the Group's Annual Report for 1986, Lord Boardman, Chairman of National Westminster Bank, said:

"Record profits in 1986 have again shown that the National Westminster Bank Group is one of the most successful banks in the world. The Group's consistent performance rests upon sound management of risk, good marketing of our services and firm control of costs.

"The United Kingdom enjoyed continuing economic growth in 1986. With the world economic growth projected for 1987, a more competitive exchange rate, and continuing low inflation, the conditions should be good for successful enterprise and more jobs.

"I believe the banks have responded positively to the changes in the world's financial markets and to the needs of British industry and commerce. Today, long-term money is readily available for the right projects and industry has a wider choice than ever before in the ways in which it raises funds.

"Major projects are important for the future of Britain; so, too, is a flourishing small business sector. Our support for such businesses now exceeds £7 billion.

"At the end of 1986 the Group employed 94,000 people, and their commitment and dedication to customer service is, above all, the basis of our success as one of the world's leading financial services groups. Our pre-eminent position is the result of the skill, professionalism, and hard work of the NatWest team at all levels."

In his review of the year's Operations, Philip W Wilkinson, Group Chief Executive, comments:

Action in 1986

1986 was an excellent year for the NatWest Group. The firm foundation for our success in 1986, and in over three centuries of banking experience, has been our commitment to provide a first class service. We know that our customers expect and deserve no less.

The NatWest way is to build long-term relationships with our customers. During the year we have continued to reshape our operations so that we can concentrate separate resources on different groups of customers. This allows us to meet the increasingly sophisticated needs of business customers whilst improving further the quality of the service we offer to personal customers.



Throughout our substantial network of

branches in the United Kingdom we are continuing our effort to ensure that our customers come first, and that their needs are identified and met. This fundamental attitude to customer service is being adopted right across the NatWest Group.

Action for People

We now have five and a half million personal customers, an increase of 400,000 over the year. The introduction of 'Free If in Credit' banking enabled us to increase our business, particularly in the important young persons market, whose accounts are the seedcorn for the future. We gained a 41 per cent share of new students accounts.

Our retail banking strengths, together with our product range, give us a significant competitive advantage. We built on that advantage in 1986 by reorganising our approach to the personal sector, by improving the way we deliver services, and by enhancing our product range.

We are in the midst of a major programme designed to enhance professionalism and service. This involves re-designing our branches, emphasising the open-plan public space, with our staff having closer personal contact with customers.

Action for Small Businesses

In so many cases, our relationship with private individuals has grown into a business relationship.

The contribution small businesses can make to the British economy, and to employment, is well recognised, and we are proud to be known as the bank for small business. We regard our lending to small businesses as an investment for the future, and our commitment to the businesses of tomorrow is shown by our market leadership in providing support in start-up situations.

Action for Medium-Sized Companies

To build long term relationships with growing and successful companies, we are establishing a network of business centres in the United Kingdom. Within each business centre there is a team of Accounts Executives who are the focal point for banker-customer relationships.

As companies develop, they often look abroad for new markets. The professional assistance offered by NatWest's world trade finance activities is helping companies reduce the costs and potential risks of international trading.

Action for Major Corporates

NatWest has a relationship with over three quarters of the largest 500 companies in the United Kingdom. We are determined to maintain and expand upon those relationships, and we have established a team of Senior Executives to do just that. They will marshal all the resources of the NatWest Group to provide a comprehensive financial service, drawing on our strengths in domestic banking, international banking and the Group's investment banking activities.

As a major international bank, we have strong links with many of the world's leading corporate institutions. Our record in international banking gives us a good foundation for the future.

We are represented in 37 countries, and we have a major presence in the leading financial centres of the world.

While NatWest is well placed to take advantage of the commercial banking business opportunities which exist in international finance, more and more multinational companies now look to the world's capital markets for solutions to their financial needs. By establishing NatWest Investment Bank on the existing base of County, we are ready to provide these solutions.

Action through our People

During 1986, the imaginative use of technology, together with our policy of streamlining working practices, enabled us to handle materially higher volume growth in our core businesses. We also moved strongly into new areas. As a result of the continuing expansion of the Group's business, the number of people employed increased by 2,000 to 94,000.

We make a major investment in recruiting and developing our people, so that they can reach their full potential, equipping them with the technical knowledge and skills needed to provide a truly professional service to our customers.

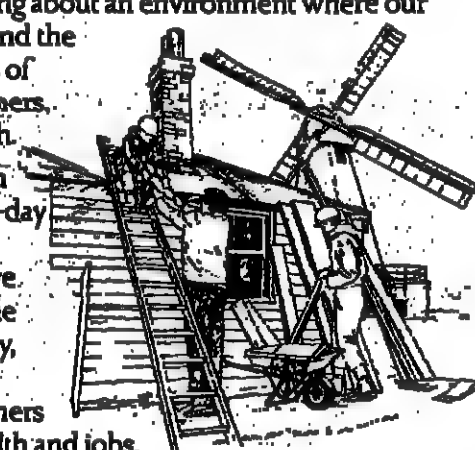
Action in the Community

NatWest plays an active part in the local community. By making a positive contribution to the

well-being and development of the community, we help to bring about an environment where our business, and the businesses of our customers, can flourish.

Through our day-to-day business activities we invest in the community, by helping our customers create wealth and jobs.

Much of our programme of community support is focused on the needs of the young and the disadvantaged, and on promoting enterprise and employment, particularly in the Inner Cities, where for many years we have supported official agencies and private sector initiatives with funds and the secondment of experienced managers. In 1986, we assisted over 5,500 organisations.



Press for Action

In 1986 our commitment to provide quality service, which has been our hallmark for three centuries, was given new expression by 'Press for Action'.

We realise that in the competitive world of financial services we shall maintain our leading position only if we continue to respond swiftly, efficiently and professionally, whenever and wherever our customers press for action.

That is why we shall follow through the major initiatives we undertook throughout the Group in 1986 to improve the quality of customer service. Press for Action is not just a slogan. It is a promise. All of us at NatWest are determined to keep that promise.

To obtain your copy of the NatWest Report & Accounts for 1986, please complete and return the coupon below.

To: The Secretary,
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FK wins £108m of new work

By John Bell
City Editor

French Kier, the contracting arm of CH Beazer (Holdings), has won £108 million worth of new business during March.

Among £20 million worth of contracts just finalized is a £4 million refurbishment programme at the Natural History Museum in Cromwell Road, London and a refitting of offices for CRT Options, the Dutch architectural group.

French Kier Scotland is to build five radio stations on the West coast. French Kier Southern has won a £7 million Home Office contract for the redevelopment of the HM Youth Custody Centre in Huntercombe.

French Kier has developed into a major profits centre for the Beazer group since its acquisition in January last year. This will be confirmed today when Beazer announces current interim profits.

Analysts are forecasting £23.5 million before tax against £10.7 million in the previous first half. This year, the results will include a full six-month contribution from FK for the first time and two months' profits from Cliford Hill, the US aggregates and cement maker bought last year for \$283 million (£177 million).

Beazer is on course for full-year profits of about £68 million against £31 million previously.

Microsystems revises bid for AI to £6.6m

Microsystems, an electronics group on the USM, has made a revised offer for Analytical Instruments with the agreement of the AI board.

AI, a private company, makes electronic products. Microsystems will offer seven new shares and 197p cash for 13 AI shares. On the basis of a Microsystems share price of 256p when the agreement was reached, the offer values each AI share at 153p and the issued share capital of AI at £6.6 million.

An all-cash alternative of 150p for each AI ordinary share will be available.

In January Microsystems offered two shares plus 39p cash for three AI shares.

Undertakings to accept have been received from holders of 93.5 per cent of AI shares.

● **ASTRA INDUSTRIAL GROUP:** The company plans a rights issue to raise about £2.79 million, net, by the issue of 26.97 million ordinary shares at 11p each on the basis of five ordinary shares for every 14 held.

● **GORDON RUSSELL:** Results for 1986. With figures in £000: Turnover 16,611 (11,424). Pretax profit 1,811 (1,022). Extraordinary item, nil (debit 1,076). Earnings per share 14.7p (7.9p).

● **MONUMENT OIL AND GAS:** No dividend for 1986 (same). With figures in £000: Turnover (sales of oil and gas) 12 (30). Pretax loss 50 (profit 39). Loss per share 0.06p (earnings 0.16p).

COMPANY NEWS

● **ALLIED DUNBAR GROUP:** Results for 1986. Figures in £000: Actuarial surplus, after tax, 43,809 (36,910).

● **GIBBS AND DANDY:** Dividend 2p (1.8p) for 1986. With figures in £000: Turnover 19,557 (18,282). Pretax profit 308 (601). Earnings per share 5.8p (5.3p).

● **TECHNICAL COMPONENT INDUSTRIES:** Total dividend for 1986 4p. With figures in £000: Turnover 3,501 (1,441). Pretax profit 658 (302). Earnings per share 15.1p (8p).

● **KEEP TRUST:** Total dividend 6.75p (4.5p) for 1986. With figures in £000: Turnover 77,728 (65,993). Pretax profit 2,714 (2,183). Earnings per share 29.3p (21.5p).

● **GERMAN SECURITIES INVESTMENT TRUST:** Half-year to February 28. No dividend. With figures in £000: Gross revenue 178 (38). Net pretax revenue 70 (17). A final dividend will be recommended in December which will represent no less than 85 per cent of profits available for distribution.

● PRIEST, MARIANS HOLDINGS: The group has sold 14 of the 17 properties recently acquired from Rush and Tompkins. Guardian Assurance has acquired nine of the properties for £14.85 million. A property swap with Imry International has resulted in four of the Rush properties being exchanged for the freehold interest in Britannia House, 233 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2, which comprises 15,900 sq ft and produced a rental of £235,000. These disposals have generated a gross profit, before sales and acquisition costs, of £1.75 million.

● **NEWBY GROUP:** The company is reporting for the 51 weeks to December 28. With figures in £000: Turnover 18,576 (17,386). Pretax profit 1,152 (1,803). Earnings per share 44.4p (69.9p).

● **BLENHEIM EXHIBITIONS GROUP:** Half-year to February 28, compared with the year to August 31, 1986. Interim dividend 1.05p (0.7p), payable on May 18. With figures in £000: Turnover 2,219 (2,616). Pretax profit 602 (502). Earnings per share 6.8p (6.5p).

THIRD MARKET

High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Change
250	180	Abelco Group	245	255	n/a	
50	10	Aberdeen Am Petrol	32	35	+1	
120	112	Allied Insurance	108	118	n/a	
54	35	Catalyst Commercial	46	50	n/a	
85	34	Corton Beach	n/a	n/a	n/a	
155	121	Edinburgh Inv	150	170	+10	
33	10	Eglington Oil Ireland	33	35	+1	
41	9	Co. Warranes	18	20	n/a	
29	17	Publishing Holdings	29	30	n/a	
56	48	Thames Holdings	56	56	+5	
133	114	Unit Group	112	117	n/a	

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Three Month Sterling	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 87	90.85	90.70	90.83	90.83	9,500
Sep 87	90.87	90.85	90.87	90.87	1,545
Dec 87	90.84	90.88	90.84	90.85	420
Mar 88	90.82	90.82	90.81	90.82	0
Jun 88	90.84	90.87	90.84	90.87	20
Sep 88	NT	NT	NT	90.45	0
Dec 88	NT	NT	NT	90.38	0
Mar 89	NT	NT	NT	90.85	0

Three Month Eurodollar	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 87	93.30	93.23	93.27	93.28	5734
Sep 87	93.32	93.25	93.28	93.28	1684
Dec 87	93.32	93.25	93.25	93.25	685
Mar 88	93.26	93.23	93.27	93.25	767
Jun 88	NT	NT	NT	93.00	0
Sep 88	NT	NT	NT	92.80	0
Dec 88	NT	NT	NT	92.50	0
Mar 89	NT	NT	NT	92.39	0

US Treasury Bond	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 87	98.03	98.19	97.25	97.25	7181
Sep 87	NT	NT	NT	96.25	0

Short Call	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 87	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
Sep 87	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
Dec 87	NT	NT	NT	NT	0

Long Call	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 87	123.12	123.12	121.26	122.01	33074
Sep 87	NT	NT	NT	121.81	0
Dec 87	NT	NT	NT	122.01	0

FT-SE 100	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 87	204.50	204.50	199.05	200.00	689
Jun 87	200.00	200.00	203.50	203.70	1705

RECENT ISSUES	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Admiral Comp (150p)	177	177	177	177	177
Barbour Inds (215p)	370	370	370	370	370
Br Airways (84)	100	100	100	100	100
Capital Radio (105p)	161	161	161	161	161
Castle Conn (200p)	177	177	177	177	177
Dale Group (110p)	128	128	128	128	128
Glenfries (18p)	81	81	81	81	81
Hobson Pub (250p)	39	39	39	39	39
Homby (100p)	109	109	109	109	109
JCS Elec (115p)	230	230	230	230	230
Lon & Metro (148p)	156	156	156	156	156
MIL (144p)	209	209	209	209	209
Muller (120p)	130	130	130	130	130
Nobis PLC (50p)	178	178	178	178	178
Paragon (152p)	198	198	198	198	198
Perpetual (180p)	173	173	173	173	173
Plum Hops (50p)	147	147	147	147	147
Prism Leisure (120p)	100	100	100	100	100
RGO (35p)	100	100	100	100	100

RIGHTS ISSUES	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Albion N/P	226	226	226	226	226
Burgess F/P	215	215	215	215	215
City Site Est F/P	806	806	806	806	806
Cookson F/P	44	44	44	44	44
Island N/P	171	171	171	171	171
Ladbrokes N/P	198	198	198	198	198
Plot Pet N/P	173	173	173	173	173
Widney N/P	147	147	147	147	147
Wiggins F/P	100	100	100	100	100

RECENT ISSUES	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Albion N/P	226	226	226	226	226
Burgess F/P	215	215	215	215	215
City Site Est F/P	806	806	806	806	806
Cookson F/P	44	44	44	44	44
Island N/P	171	171	171	171	171
Ladbrokes N/P	198	198	198	198	198
Plot Pet N/P	173	173	173	173	173
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Edited by Matthew May

COMPUTER HORIZONS/1

It pays to heed the dangers of fire and flood

THE WEEK

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A well-used maxim by insurance companies is that one widely-publicized disaster is worth a thousand exhortations to improve security. Reference to that adage is contained in the book by Adrian Norman on *Computer Insecurity*, which provides a catalogue of more than 100 disasters of fire, flooding and explosions of accidental or deliberate origin.

An even closer reminder of the nightmares of an accident was provided last week by the blaze which destroyed a £2 million computer centre at the Open University, in Milton Keynes.

Fortunately, the early fears were unfounded about the extent of the destruction of tapes and discs, containing the results of years of research.

The computer was used by 30 academics and researchers in the technology department, where they work on contracts for research councils, government departments and industry, worth millions of pounds.

Open University files duplicated several miles away

The Open University quickly reassured its thousands of students across the country that the fire was confined to an isolated research centre on the campus at Milton Keynes.

The main computer centre which is used for the running of the administration of the university, and which contains the details of all the courses and progress of each student, is in a building under special security and restricted access.

Everything on that equipment is duplicated by an identical system several miles away, at an organization with which the Open University has a reciprocal back-up agreement. This form of security is in general use in the computer industry for administrative and financial-type operations. But the blaze last week highlighted the need for different degrees of vigilance.

By its very nature, there is wider access to a computer system shared by academics and students than one that is dedicated to work for administrative purposes.

In addition, the system in the technology department was itself the key research tool. The work is an outstanding example of the breadth of computer-aided design.

Years of design studies into projects relating to wind turbines, robot grippers, energy conservation in buildings, traffic analysis in urban areas and image processing of data from satellites, are among the information on the files.

Unfortunately, limits to money for research had compelled the Open University to establish the technology design team in a temporary wooden hut. The saving grace came in a pair of fireproof doors separating the computer suite from the offices.

The computer was completely destroyed, together with soft discs, tapes and peripheral equipment in the computer room.

Offices escaped with no more than smoke damage, and so did the back-up discs which most of the users of the computer system had kept and stored in their offices.

The prefabricated building at Milton Keynes is an indication that, with the ever spreading use of computers, special purpose accommodation to house equipment is the exception rather than rule.

There are cases where computers have been wrecked because fire precautions in adjacent premises had been inadequate. So damage has been caused from hoses used to quench a blaze in an office of a neighbour, and when the computer room was not the centre of the conflagration.

The first recorded major disaster was as early as 1959, in a building of the American Department of Defence. It was caused by a 300 watt light bulb. Plastic material on a ceiling in a vault smouldered, and the room burst into flames when the door was opened.

The vault was a store for magnetic tapes and printouts. Although the data was lost, and the damage was calculated at about £5million, the crucial programs survived because they had been put in fire-proof cabinets.

In his assessment of "insecurity" Adrian Norman suggests that water can do much less harm to computers than is often believed. The same



Open University fire: disaster narrowly averted

alarm which triggers the sprinklers can simultaneously cut off power to the computer, and so avoid the dangerous mixture of electricity and water.

Since the computer hardware is not itself combustible, when the room is unoccupied the equipment can be covered with waterproof sheets while still permitting water from sprinklers to douse any other potential fire.

There are examples where computers that merely get soaked can be dried out carefully and restored successfully. Damage from smoke is much more difficult to repair.

But it is the vulnerability of the magnetic tapes and discs and the paper records to which Mr Norman draws attention.

Those are more difficult to replace than computer hardware. Provided precautions have been taken, the magnetic media can be used on temporary systems until the installation has been rebuilt.

Grown-up games on hold

TELEVISION

By David Guest

Broadcasting for computer enthusiasts reached a new low this week as the final edition of BBC 2's *Micro Live* went out. For a brief period in 1985 all four television channels had something for the micro user.

The BBC had been first off the mark, and by 1983 the home computer boom had persuaded the independents that there was money in micros. Since then, for broadcasting as for home computer sales, there has been a steady decline.

Micro Live — or something like it — may return in a year's time, says series editor David Allen. In the meantime the BBC will broadcast a best-of *Micro Live* compilation and a special programme for computer technicians.

"We've had a three-year run," said Mr Allen, "and there has never been any problem with material, but we need a pause to sit back and determine what kind of output we should have."

Micro Live itself has grown up during its three years. "We felt that there was more to computing than playing games," said Mr Allen. It's a far cry from the days when microcomputers were for the young.

Central Television, hoping to catch its audience when they

were not monopolising the TV as a screen with their Spectrums and Vic-20s, presented *The Magic Micro Mission* from a starship at the universe's rim — probably Birmingham.

Granpian chipped in with *Bits 'n' Pieces* on Saturday mornings, when children of an earlier generation would have been at the cinema club.

Nor was the activity restricted to television — young apprentice State Prosecutors tormented the experts on late-night radio phone-ins with trick questions like "Can you record on both sides of the tape?"

BBC 1 had *Using the BBC Micro*; BBC 2 had a string of programmes like *Micro Live*, *Computer Town*, and *Making the Most of your Micro*; ITV offered *Database* and an occasional special like *The Videogame Game*, and Channel 4 presented the twee *Me and My Micro*.

The BBC transmitted microcomputer programs as well as programmes. There was microcode from the *Radio* show, *The Chip Shop*, and telesoftware via Ceefax. Broadcasters tried to bal-

ance entertainment with education, and the results fell somewhere between public service broadcasting and audience participation.

Declining interest in home computers need not have killed off the programmes.

But most home computing meant game playing, and most of the games were of the mindless variety. Asked to suggest less frivolous uses for home micros, people tended to flounder. Diary notes and fridge freezer stock control were often mentioned when the educational possibilities — primarily learning to program in Basic — had been exhausted.

The emphasis in the micro-computer market has now switched to business use, and as Mr Allen noted wryly, "it's difficult to make a programme about financial spreadsheets compulsive viewing."

Even so, *Micro Live* evolved to present this more serious side, and it was deemed to be worth repeating during each week.

The home micro makers have also evolved — those that survive are trying to sell business computers, sometimes for home use. But the number of games written for the IBM PC is growing all the time. Perhaps this tells its own story.

Strong push into factory automation

Digital Equipment, seeking to extend its recent successes over IBM to the factory floor, introduced a series of industrial computers last week based on its VAX mini-computer designs.

The announcement marked one of Digital's strongest pushes yet into the factory-automation market, where computer makers have tried to integrate robots, machine tools, product-design work stations and the computers that keep factories running.

The Digital system, apart from a raft of new software, is basically identical to the VAX equipment that the company sells for offices and laboratories.

Company executives argued that compatibility problems with the IBM's mid-range

computers, which have cost IBM market share in office computers, also make the company vulnerable in the factory-automation market.

David Copeland, Digital's US group manager of manufacturing and marketing for computer-integrated manufacturing, said: "There is now a myriad of disconnected personal computers being installed on the factory floor — one for every job — and there is no networking going on."

Analysis, however, said that Digital's contentions about IBM's weakness in factory automation were a matter of debate. Over the last year, IBM officials have stressed the utility of several systems in factories, and have long marketed a special, heavy-duty version of the IBM PC for factories.



Next week we launch a new-style competition in association with the computer services company CMG, aimed at giving our readers a laugh and the opportunity of winning exciting prizes.

The first prize will be an open-ended aircraft ticket for two to the United States with an expenses-paid week-end in New England, where some of the world's most exciting high-tech projects are born.

The second prize is a week's summer holiday for two in one of the most attractive Continental locations, and there will be many other prizes in a competition spread over four weeks which is intended to test your sense of humour and provide a lot of fun for all.



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FORTUNE MAGAZINE

a super-super-fast AT

DAVID FRASER, M.D. MICROSOFT UK

a speed demon

USA TODAY

As far ahead of IBM's PC, which kicked off the second generation, as the PC was ahead of the Apple II, which sparked the revolution a decade ago.

FORTUNE MAGAZINE

A MACHINE THIS FAST WAS BOUND TO PICK UP A FEW ENDORSEMENTS

At the fully featured end of things, Compaq has certainly shown the way ahead.

PC USER

twice as fast as IBM's fastest micro

BUSINESS MICROS

a quantum leap for desktop computing

PC BUSINESS WORLD

Experts here said the Compaq machine is everything they had hoped an 80386 machine would be.

USA TODAY

overall winner is the Compaq Deskpro 386 which comes out on top for its speed, expansion potential both present and future and relatively modest price.

WHICH COMPUTER

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PRACTICAL COMPUTING

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COMPAQ
DESKPRO 386

COMPUTER HORIZONS/2

How a skills shortage can mean you are worth more money

A skills shortage in specific job sectors of the computer industry is by no means unusual. In a computer installation employing, say, 30 staff, it may mean that there are only three systems analysts instead of four programmers, rather than the desired five. Until the vacancies are filled, existing staff can always manage somehow.

There are occasions, however, where a particular type of data-processing specialist can be hard to justify in a small installation, especially if demand for their skill is variable depending on workload.

Also, they may represent only a small percentage of the total staff involved in a large installation. The nature and specialization of the work means that they can be equally in demand in any area where there is a skill shortage, albeit that the demand is less than for other staff overall.

In these instances a skills shortage of such people can, especially for the more experienced person, mean a high salary. This in turn makes the specialist less affordable to some computer users who cannot afford staff where demand may peak only at certain times of the year.

Some users who cannot afford staff where demand peaks only at certain times

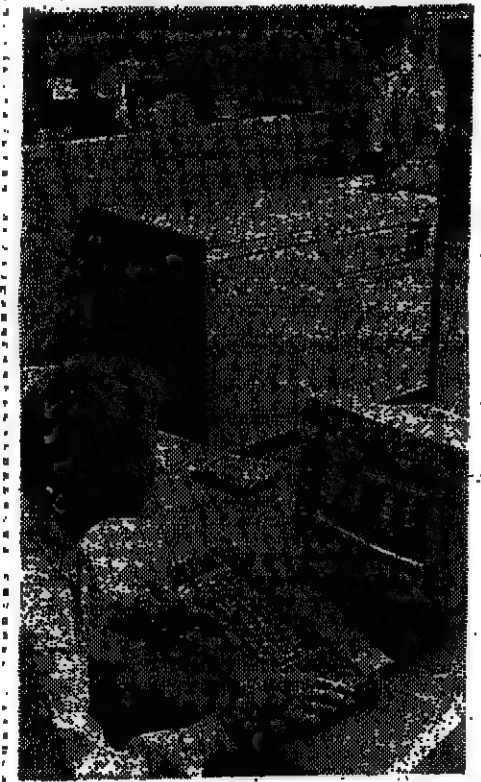
They thus keep their ratio of specialist permanent staff on the low side as a result.

Such is the case with computer support staff, where this anomaly of "who is required, but when, and at what price?" has fuelled an interesting situation.

"Technical support staff are the hardest people to get hold of in the market," said Basil Pearce, joint managing director of Croydon-based Scope Personnel Services. "Systems programmers particularly are now in tremendous demand. Some of them, especially the ones with specialist experience, are becoming a bit like the super salesmen who earn more than sales managers."

A support manager with a technical background is equally hard to find and he or she may earn £25,000 to £35,000 a year with all the responsibility. A systems programmer with specialist knowledge can often command £30,000 a year or even contract himself out at £1,000 a week.

"In some support areas — banks and



Technical support staff are the hardest to get.

JOBS SCENE

By Eddie Coulter

stockbrokers, for example," says Mr Pearce, "the demand for communication network support specialist, essentially IBM, is very high. Communication is a relatively new technical field which is growing faster than there are people to provide the support function."

"The competitiveness of the market means that immediately people get trained, they get poached. This makes some companies reluctant to train in the first place."

In many support areas, computer manufacturers and software suppliers alike, provide support people as part of their service to customers. It is another aspect of the support market which offers a career in its own right — that of sales support, which can be for the right people, a route into sales itself.

However, such support from the user's point of view is not always available in the depth or at the time that is needed to support a particular computing phase.

This bodes well for both systems programmers, for example, who decide to go out on a contract.

Richard Kalvinsky, director of Knight Computer Services, says: "The biggest demand is for IBM systems programmers. If you've four or five years solid IBM MVS experience, then you can earn £1,000 a week. It is even higher in Europe. There is an increasing call for such people, especially in Holland and Belgium where the rate is up to £1,500 a week."

The need for support in IBM installations, especially to cope with demand at certain times of the year, has meant that for several years now users have had a difficult job to balance their support needs. This was recognized

Work can become mundane if systems programmers are restricted to one site

by one services company, Synapse Computer Services, when it started seven years ago.

Starting with provision of support for the IBM operating system, Synapse grew rapidly, moving on to VME and then all IBM operating systems, by supplying its own support people — not contract staff — on the basis of an annual contract for support services.

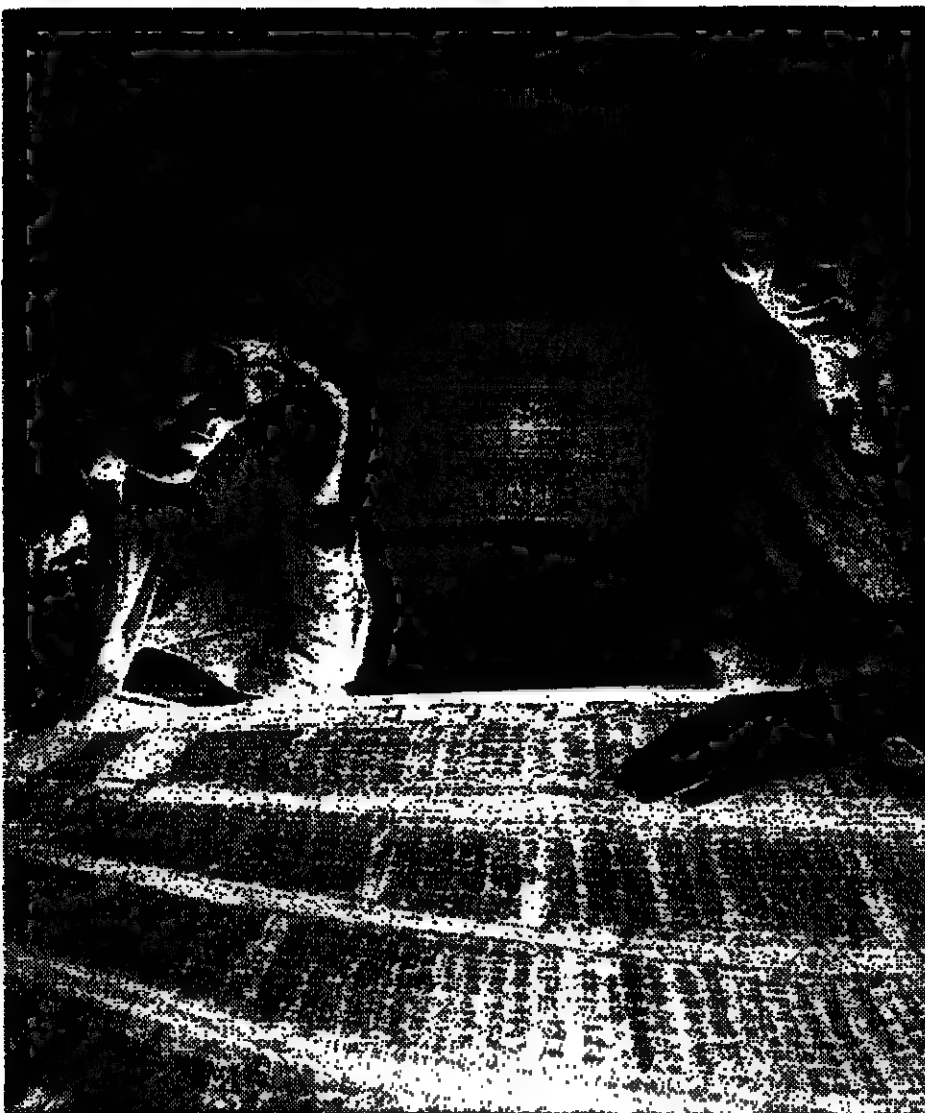
Such was the demand that Synapse achieved a listing on the unlisted securities market in 1985. With a turnover to the end of July last year of almost £3.9 million, and contracts with 340 IBM mainframe sites in the UK (35 to 40 per cent of the IBM user base), the company is expecting a further increase this year.

It has all been achieved because of the skills shortage as well as the up-and-down pattern of demand that exists for support staff.

According to John Salmon, UK sales manager of finance, the skills shortage will continue. "Systems programmers are in short supply because the numbers and quality are not available," he says.

"Also, their skills diminish if they are not used regularly. The work can become mundane if systems programmers are tied to one site, but they can get more variety and use their specialist skills better if they are able to work at different sites. This is particularly true for communications and database support people."

For Synapse, where salaries are in the upper quartile for their 114 staff, people with both applications and operations background as well as solid experience are employed. "Customer needs are mixed," says John Salmon, "although there is a predominance of technical support required."



Three days to design these chips

Dr Richard Hartley and Dr Sharbel Nounjah are shown examining a computer-generated plot of a chip, known as a silicon compiler, developed in only three days using a new design tool from General Electric in the US. GE says the design of the chips, one with 35,000 transistors, the other with 15,000, would have taken more than six months using

previous compilers. Once the chip is specified, the compiler does a simulation to test the algorithm it has been supplied. The simulation produces data mirroring the output of the eventual chip, enabling the designer to see how closely the algorithm achieves the desired results. The more complex of the two chips utilizes only 100 lines of programming code

Million purpose space-age matchbox

By Keith Hindley

Ultra-compact parallel processors combining impressive capacity with low-power requirements are starting to emerge from research sponsored by the US Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), also known as the Star Wars project.

Next month, a matchbox-size signal processing computer capable of a billion operations a second on a power demand of just one watt will be completed by US Air Force engineers in New York.

The computer consists of a stack of three-inch wafers, each carrying hundreds of integrated circuits to form a 32-by-32 array of computing cells.

The wafers inter-connect to create a massively parallel unit based on three-micron sized transistors.

But this is just the first stage of a three-stage project. Stage two is underway and involves 1.25-micron transistors.

By 1990 it expects to produce a baked bean-size computer with a 10 billion operations a second capacity.

Comprised of a stack of 14 four-inch wafers, the array will have 16,384 cells in a square array and operate on just 30 watts.

John Graniero, the group's project engineer, says: "This 3D device will do the job. It solves the SDI sensor problem."

"It will cope with the deluge of data from a bank of satellite sensors and will not strain the power source available."

"It should also have sufficient fault tolerance to last five years without major degradation in performance."

Withstanding high radiation levels

The final stage in the project, however, will deliver a coffee can-sized square array with 262,144 cells, with a capacity of one trillion operations a second — and all on the same 30 watts — by 1992.

Mr Graniero admits that the computer will be unsuitable for most command and control needs, but adds that "the sensor, instant signal processing and communications applications are staggering."

"The next step will be to adapt the devices to withstand high levels of radiation so they can survive and work in space based military satellites."

The units will have very quick spin-offs, not only for SDI projects and other military applications such as the "smart skins" project to embed hundreds of sensors into aircraft skins, but to many civilian uses, particularly in the analysis of images and developments in artificial intelligence.

Three-quarters of a million jobs will go, says report

By Richard Sarson

Inefficient British companies will have to shed up to half a million white-collar jobs, largely through the increased use of information technology, if they are to compete with well-organized British and American firms, according to a report to be published next month.

The survey estimates that up to 250,000 managers will also have to go. It was carried out by the management consultants A.T. Kearney, which questioned 247 British companies on the control of overheads.

The report is based on the answers to a questionnaire on the control of overheads. The respondents were the directors of firms broadly representative of The Times Top 1,000 companies, with a slant towards manufacturing industry.

Though they had all tackled the problem of costs by reducing their direct workforce, they had hardly started controlling indirect labour or management itself. A similar survey of American companies done by the same company in 1985 indicated that the prime target should be the organization structure itself.

There, the leading companies have a management to staff ratio of 1:4.8, whereas in the UK the ratio is 1:2.4. Tom Bevington, the author of the report, claims that "the implication is that in the UK, nearly 50 per cent of staff costs are accounted for by the management structure, and this is unsupportably high."

Most of the firms questioned made the control of personnel costs the most important way to increase short-term profitability but, whereas in a similar survey five years ago they planned to do this by "short sharp cuts", they now plan to achieve it in a more structured way.

The most favoured method was by computer systems and office automation, closely followed by organizational restructuring and stock reductions.

The emphasis on office automation is surprising, as the benefits remain intangible and the market has yet to take off. In fact, more than 20 per cent reported some disappointment with their computer and office-automation programmes. Despite this, most firms still make information technology their top priority for the next few years.



In the UK, nearly 50 per cent of staff costs are accounted for by the management structure.

Tom Bevington, management analyst

On the other hand, of those companies that implemented programmes to increase the "span of control" of their managers, by increasing the number of staff reporting to each manager, none achieved less than expected and nearly 20 per cent achieved more.

The authors of the report, which is sponsored by the CBI and the Institute of Administrative Management, clearly believe that increasing the span of control is the main priority facing British industry and are encouraged that 17 per cent more firms are starting span-of-control programmes than in 1982.

The report also argues that computer networks can do much of the communication that managers previously had to do, and thus help to increase the span of control of each manager, reducing the number of levels in the hierarchy.

One implication that could be drawn from this report is that managers who want to survive in the competitive, overhead-cutting business world of the next few years would do well to join the only remaining growth area, namely information technology.

Corporate Organisation and Overhead Effectiveness Study, 1986, by Dr Tom Bevington and Alec Marsden of A. T. Kearney.

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Edited by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle

Remember the forgotten

According to latest estimates, 250 million people suffer from severe mental illness, and the preferred method of treatment is to push them out of sight. Viewpoint 87: Forgotten Millions (ITV, 10.30pm) examines the often shocking way different nations fail to cope. In the United States, liberal legislation has led to thousands of damaged people wandering the streets, denied treatment, and often spending nights warehoused in vast dormitories with 600 beds. Japan suffers an opposite problem: there, it is all too easy to commit someone to a mental asylum and many sane people end up inside, committed by disapproving families. These institutions are described aptly as medical prisons. Most are privately owned and physical abuse is commonplace. In one such place 223 patients died in three

CHOICE

years. This excellent made documentary also visits India where the annual health budget is 80p per capita, and Egypt for a rare example of positive attitude, at a hospital near Cairo where the focus is on symptoms not activity.

Colin Welland's Oscar-winning boast that the British were coming was generally held to be ill-judged, was much too-poor, and no doubt lived to haunt the man. Yet Welland was not wrong. Perhaps they arrived quietly by Business Class. But Hollywood has been assimilating the Brits for decades. In fact they have always been there, and, with Hollywood run more than ever by superstition and hunches, it is relatively easy for any Britisher with a bit of

credit, and a good agent, to walk into a deal. Welland's mentor David Puttnam now has his own studio there and the generation is more or less exclusive work in the sun. The 1987 Oscars (BBC1, 10.30pm) are well represented by the British because almost nobody apart from Woody Allen is managing to make films for people over 18. There's nothing like the British for bringing a touch of class to what is in actuality a tacky occasion.

The radio choices both concern fame and fortune. Theatre of the Absurd: Ping Pong (Radio 3, 8.30pm) features Bill Nighy as a pinball wizard, and Thirty Minute Theatre: Key to the Door (Radio 4, 11am) has Timothy Spall as a supermarket shelf-stacker dreaming of stardom.

Chris Pettit



Emma Thompson and Robbie Coltrane in episode five of Tattler (BBC1, 9.30pm)

BBC1

6.00 Ceefax AM, 6.55 Weather, 7.00 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough, Sally Magnusson, and Jeremy Paxman. National and international news at 7.00, 7.15, 7.30 and 7.45. Regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25.

8.40 Watchdog. Consumer complaints investigated by Lynn Faulds Wood and John Stapleton. 8.55 Regional news and weather.

9.00 News and weather. 9.05 Day to Day. Robert Kilroy Silk, his guests, and studio audience, discuss a topical subject. 9.45 Advice Shop. Margo MacDonald explains the new maternity benefit that comes into effect on April 6.

10.00 News and weather. 10.05 Neighbours (r) 10.25 Children's BBC. Philip Schofield with programme news, and birthday greetings. 10.30 Play School, presented by Iain Lauchlan with guest Elizabeth Watts. (r) 10.40 Paddington. (r)

10.55 Five to Eleven. Alan Bennett with a thought for the day. 11.00 News and weather. 11.05 BBC2. The last programme in Judi Spera's money-saving ideas series. 11.30 Open Air. Viewers choose television output. Includes news and weather at 12.00.

12.20 The Tom O'Connor Roadshow. Variety from the Alhambra Theatre, Bradford. 12.55 Regional news and weather.

1.00 One O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. Weather. 1.25 Neighbours. Daphne is puzzled by things that go on in the night. 1.50 Gran (r) 1.55 Animal Park. (r)

2.05 Evita Peron. The second and final part of the dramatization of the life of one of the most powerful women in the world. Starring Faye Dunaway and

James Farentino. (r) 3.35 The Pick Panther Show. (r) 3.50 Bertha, narrated by Roy Kinnear and Sheila Walker. (r) 4.10 The Hunter. (r) 4.15 Jackanory. Victoria Wood and Martin Jarvis with Allan Ahlberg's Ten in a Bed. 4.25 Bananaman. (r) 4.30 The Album includes collecting tea cards.

5.00 John Craven's Newsround. 5.05 Seeview. The first of a six-part story set in a boarding house. (r) 5.35 The Flintstones. (r)

6.00 Six O'Clock News with Nicholas Witchell and Philip Heyton. Weather. (r)

6.35 Holiday '87 introduced by Frank Bough. Gillian Reynolds is in Australia: former Chief Constable John Alderson investigates a 'sleuth' weekend; and John Pitman soaks up the sun in Morocco. (r)

7.30 EastEnders. Dan is delighted with his divorce. (Ceefax)

8.00 Brush Strokes. Comedy series starring Karl Howman as an amateur painter and decorator. (r) (Ceefax)

8.30 Dear John. The final episode of the series starring Ralph Bates as a man trying to come to terms with his divorce. (r) (Ceefax)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Nicholas Witchell and Philip Heyton. Regional news and weather.

9.30 Tatti Frutti. Robbie Coltrane stars as Danny McGilne, the ageing leader of a 25-year-old rock and roll band, this evening recording their Silver Anniversary album. (Ceefax)

10.30 The 1987 Oscars. By satellite from Hollywood. Barry Norman introduces highlights of the 59th Academy Awards ceremony. Among those presenting the statuette are Paul Hogan, Madonna, Lauren Bacall, and Anthony Quinn. (see Choice)

12.10 Weather.

BBC 2

6.55 Open University: Technology - Electric Money. Ends at 7.20.

9.00 Ceefax. This week's edition of the magazine programme for Asian women includes an interview with Robin Mir, a designer and manufacturer of children's clothes. 9.25 Ceefax.

9.55 Daytime on Two: Mary Queen of Scots 10.15 Part ten of Fair Ground: 10.35 The Commonwealth Institute's carnival 11.17 Leisure activities offered by Aviemore 11.27 Designing a party outfit.

11.57 YTS and fifth formers discover how a union can help them. 12.18 Going to the West Coast. 1.35 A newcast from France's newest television channel 1.38 School stories old and new. 2.40 News and weather. 2.52 For the young.

2.15 Cameo. The birdies of the mudflats of Waddenze.

2.25 Songs of Praise from Clarendon Park Methodist Church, Leicester. (shown last Sunday) (Ceefax)

3.00 News and weather.

3.03 Newsnight Afternoon presented by Nick Clarke.

3.50 News, regional news, and weather.

4.00 Pamela Armstrong.

4.35 Path to the Sea. Slapton Ley, a natural freshwater lake in the West Country, seen through the eyes of a grass snake. (r)

5.05 My Music. (r)

5.30 Tomorrow's World. (r)

6.00 The Claret. The tenth and final episode of the drama based on A.J. Cronin's story set in a Welsh mining community. (r)

6.55 100 Great Sporting Moments. Foxhunter and Col Harry Lewellyn in the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki.

7.00 The Crown. The first semifinal of the invitation Pairs Crown Green Bowling Tournament. Tommy Johnstone and Eddie Hubert meet Arthur Murray and Len Higginsbottom.

7.45 One Man and His Dog. The final of the Brace and Singles competitions.

8.30 Mediterranean Cookery. Claudia Roden samples Turkish food. (Ceefax)

9.00 Film: Quartet (1981) starring Alan Bates, Maggie Smith, Isabelle Adjani, and Anthony Higgins. Drama, based on Jean Rhys's novel set in Paris in 1927, about a young woman who drifts into a bizarre ménage à trois when her husband is jailed for art trafficking. Directed by James Ivory.

10.40 Newsnight includes a report from Charles Wheeler in Russia. 11.25 Weather.

11.30 The Piano. Daniel Craig plays the Piano Sonata No 28 Op 57, 'The Appassionata'.

12.00 Open University: Physics - Which Way to Turn? Ends at 12.20.

ITV/LONDON

6.15 TV-am introduced by Richard Kees. Weather at 6.25 and 6.30; sport at 6.40; and exercises at 6.55.

7.00 Good Morning Britain presented by Anna Diamond and Mike Morris. News at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; cartoon at 7.25; sport at 7.40; pop music at 7.55; and postbag at 8.35. After Nine includes Neil Patrick Harris, Michael Wood, fashion expert Merrill Thomas dressing late ladies, and at 9.17, exercises with Lizzie Webb.

9.25 Thames news headlines.

9.30 Schools: Diana Quick reads poems about animals. 9.50 Making a video. 10.09 How posters and pictures are printed. 10.28 Chemistry. 10.48 For GCSE geography students. 11.10 British folk dances. 11.27 The wonder of human reproduction. 11.44 Children's relationships with those in authority.

12.00 Tickle on the Tum. Village tales for the young. (r) 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets. (r) 12.30 The Sullivan. Drama serial about an Australian family during the 1940s.

1.00 News at One with Leonard Parkin. 1.20 Thames news. 1.30 Bulman. George goes behind bars to corner an armed gang of robbers operating on the inside. Starring Don Henderson and Siobhan Redmond. (r)

2.30 Daytime. Sarah Kennedy chairs a discussion on capital punishment. With, among others, MPs Sir Ian Paterson and Clive Selby; Frances Crook; Charles O'Leary; George Thatcher, who was once sentenced to hang; and the mother of P.C.Olds.

3.00 Cross Wit. Crossword puzzle game presented by Barry Grier. With Roy Hudd and June Whitfield. 3.25 Thames news headlines. 3.30 The Young Doctors. Medical drama serial set in a large

CHANNEL 4

2.15 Their Lordships' House. (r) 2.30 Film: The Crimes of Stephen Hawker (1936) starring Tod Slaughter, Marjorie Taylor, and Eric Portman. Regency melodrama about a seemingly benevolent moneylender who is really a mass murderer. Directed by George King.

3.45 Years Ahead. Magazine programme for the older viewer, presented by Robert Douglas. This afternoon's edition includes reports on the community's plan to stay together after the demolition of the Divis Flats in Belfast; Scotland's new Community Tax; and benefits for Garsna. Plus, advice on how to treat burns.

4.30 Countdown. Yesterday's winner is challenged by Keith Newby, a retired headmaster from Shildon, Co Durham.

5.00 Switched. Vintage American comedy about a modern-day witch.

5.30 Great Walks. The Gilbert family from Yorkshire take the coastal walk from Cape Wrath lighthouse southwards to Sandwood Bay. (r)

6.00 Shane. Marauding Indians interrupt Shane's plans to take the widow Starrett to a dance. Starring David Carradine and Jill Ireland.

7.00 Channel 4 News with Peter Sissons and Christobel King. Includes extended coverage of Mrs Thatcher's questioning by Russian television journalists.

7.50 Comedy followed by Weather.

8.00 Brookside. Tracy discovers that giving the customer what he asks for is not always a good idea; and Bobby comments on a refusal to give a gift.

8.30 4 What's It Worth. Consumer affairs programme presented by Penny Junior. John Stangerough investigates a scheme which cons the unemployed out of their money with the promise of jobs; Bill Breckon examines the safety of some charter vessels; and David Statford discovers the best buy in coffee.

9.00 Film: Act of Passion (1984) starring Mark Thomas and Kris Kristofferson. A made for television drama about an innocent woman's brief encounter with a terrorist which leads to her being hounded by the police and an unscrupulous newspaperman. Directed by Simon Langton.

10.45 Just For Laughs. Highlights from a Festival of Comedy held in Montreal. Among those appearing are Hale and Pace, Louis Anderson, and Jerry Lewis.

11.15 Comedy Wavelength. Comedy show written by people new to television.

11.40 Ask Dr Ruth. Ruth Westheimer's guest is Angie Dickinson.

12.05 Their Lordships' House. Ends at 12.20.

VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALES 5.25pm-6.00pm Wales Today 6.25-7.00 Computer Challenge 12.10pm-12.15 News and weather. 12.20pm-12.25pm News. 1.00pm-1.05pm News. 1.10pm-1.15pm News. 1.20pm-1.25pm News. 1.30pm-1.35pm News. 1.40pm-1.45pm News. 1.50pm-1.55pm News. 2.00pm-2.05pm News. 2.10pm-2.15pm News. 2.20pm-2.25pm News. 2.30pm-2.35pm News. 2.40pm-2.45pm News. 2.50pm-2.55pm News. 3.00pm-3.05pm News. 3.10pm-3.15pm News. 3.20pm-3.25pm News. 3.30pm-3.35pm News. 3.40pm-3.45pm News. 3.50pm-3.55pm News. 4.00pm-4.05pm News. 4.10pm-4.15pm News. 4.20pm-4.25pm News. 4.30pm-4.35pm News. 4.40pm-4.45pm News. 4.50pm-4.55pm News. 5.00pm-5.05pm News. 5.10pm-5.15pm News. 5.20pm-5.25pm News. 5.30pm-5.35pm News. 5.40pm-5.45pm News. 5.50pm-5.55pm News. 6.00pm-6.05pm News. 6.10pm-6.15pm News. 6.20pm-6.25pm News. 6.30pm-6.35pm News. 6.40pm-6.45pm News. 6.50pm-6.55pm News. 7.00pm-7.05pm News. 7.10pm-7.15pm News. 7.20pm-7.25pm News. 7.30pm-7.35pm News. 7.40pm-7.45pm News. 7.50pm-7.55pm News. 8.00pm-8.05pm News. 8.10pm-8.15pm News. 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Will computers think, sleep and dream?

With its benefits of several million years of evolution, the human brain has become the model for a new kind of technology — neural-network computer systems that think, learn, see, hear, forget, remember, even sleep and dream.

These would be the ultimate electronic systems — one that does not have to be programmed and is capable of computing functions comparable to those of a biological brain.

"We're studying the brain to expand our definition of what a computer is," said Michael Arbib, a neurobiologist and computer scientist at the University of Southern California.

RESEARCH

By Delia Hicks

ifornia. "Without a doubt, these will be the computers of the 21st century."

Like their counterparts in nature, neural networks are endowed with a sophisticated system of "nerves" that can transmit messages. The network can "learn" any information needed to perform tasks and make decisions.

Scientists, however, are quick to caution that neural-network technology, which grew out of research into bionics in the 1960s, is nothing like computer science as it is known today. Scientists are designing systems with special functions — particularly an ability to learn — with the hope of one day merging that capability with sophisticated robotics.

Scientists from such diverse fields as mathematics and physics are working on projects with neuroscientists

and computer specialists to produce the machines that will at first be used to assist in the colonization of space stations and distant planets.

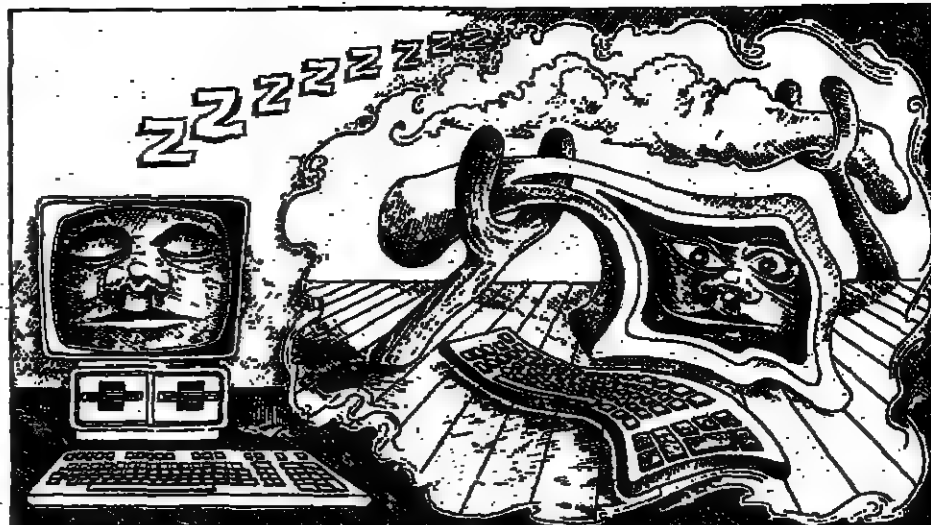
A milestone in the as-yet primitive evolution of robot vision has been achieved at the University of Southern California with a machine that is able to perceive "edges" — subtle differences in light intensity.

Other research centres are developing machines that can recognize faces and voices. Because neural networks do not have to be programmed, scientists say they can be used in situations with conventional computers, permitting the neural network to decide when and what to program into the conventional machine.

One key to designing a computer that can operate on principles similar to those governing the brain and central nervous system is the development of an internal network of microchips that function like nerve cells.

Researchers at Caltech and Bell Laboratories in New Jersey are developing such a microprocessor that serves as a component of a silicon nervous system. The network's design is based on rules of nervous system organization found in higher vertebrates, all of whom are capable of processing thousands of signals at once.

John Hopfield, Caltech biologist and computer scientist, describing the silicon microprocessor, said: "At first glance you wouldn't be able to tell this chip from any other. This is not like a conventional chip which receives input



In America, a voice synthesizer is being taught to speak and read texts in English

from only two or three others.

"In neurobiology, each neuron gets input from literally thousands of others. But computers as we know them now approach problems sequentially, using algorithms. Human problem-solving is completely different."

An algorithm is a method of solving a problem one step at a time.

Mr Hopfield said humans solve problems in a "heuristic" manner — hit and miss and by rule of thumb — making decisions about all known possibilities to arrive at the best answer, essentially what associative memory chips can do.

The difference between man and machine is that a neural network would perform the

task infinitely faster and with greater accuracy.

Scientists can achieve that capability by teaching the system much in the same way that a child is first taught to use language.

At Johns Hopkins University, a neural network, equipped with a voice synthesizer, is being taught to speak and read texts in English, repeating pronunciations until perfect speech and understanding are achieved.

When a neural network makes a mistake, it is corrected until it learns the words correctly. But even with such precision, scientists say machines will never completely match the functioning of the human brain.

Gary Lynch, a neurobiologist at the University of California, who is also participating in neural-network research, "The engineering of the human brain is absolutely staggering."

He said that it would be virtually impossible to duplicate all of the functions of the cerebral cortex, "the most complicated entity in the universe."

Mr Lynch noted that scientists can translate into silicon only a few of the complicated functions that the brain seems to perform effortlessly and cited Caltech experiments on a silicon eye and ear.

Michael Arbib, a USC neurobiologist and computer scientist, said robots equipped with neural networks will not

go through repetitive motions as dumb robots used in industry do. Instead, they will diagnose problems and arrive at solutions.

He said: "They will have to have sensors so that they can perceive what the problem is and determine on the spot an appropriate plan of action."

Tony Materna, an engineer and marketing specialist for Hecht-Nielsen in San Diego, one of a growing number of firms trying to build neural computers, said an eventual goal is to build such machines for businesses and home use.

Mr Materna said: "We think that by the end of this century there will be one of these computers in every place where a conventional computer is now used, or at least working alongside a conventional computer."

"It's possible that neural computers will decide what to program into a conventional computer."

"In business, in the near future, you'll simply have to speak into a word-processing unit and it will write letters and reports based on what is spoken into the machine."

Mr Materna predicts that by 1995, for the price of a medium-size car, people will be able to have permanent live-in maid and car repair services with the purchase of a "household unit."

What if more help is needed around the house? Why, the android would be capable of building a clone of itself, said Mr Materna, ready to paint the house, move furniture or repair a TV set.

The only trick to gaining the service would be teaching the machine to perform the job.

The company man who went solo . . . and became his own company man

Rank outsider makes good

Robin Cooke-Hurle was the archetypal company man, head office version. An Oxford graduate and something of a financial wizard, he was a total innocent in the world of selling. He knew all about working through channels and following the rule book, but he had never actually spoken to a customer.

Mr Cooke-Hurle had no idea of what he was letting himself in for when he left his job at Rank Xerox in 1982 to launch the computer software company Quantex. And, as he now admits, his sound training in company management was very nearly his undoing.

He said: "Things got pretty grim about six months after we launched. I can remember a wet November Sunday crouched in front of the computer working out our cash flows and becoming convinced we were going to go bust. It suddenly dawned on us that we would have to stop planning and get down to some selling."

Though it didn't feel like it at the time, they were in the right place at the right time; the micro industry was about to take off.

Mr Cooke-Hurle, aged 38, met the co-founders of his business, Ian Roderick and Rob Davies, when they were employed at Rank Xerox. "We got involved in an outlandish project which took several months to design and implement, and I learned that if you have a big enough budget and a long enough time, you can do almost anything."

However, all three men were individually wondering where their careers in Rank Xerox were leading. So they agreed to apply for redundancy and use their severance pay as start-up capital.

Mr Cooke-Hurle does not believe

in bank loans for software companies — "and any way, banks want securities which you don't have at that stage". But they managed to raise a further £20,000 by selling shares in the business to two friends. That brought their capital to £62,500, which seemed ample at the time.

Rank Xerox had a policy of helping former employees to set up their own computer-orientated businesses, and lent a couple of small computers, printer and other equipment.

"We had been cogs in a wheel and one major weakness, which could have finished us off, was that none of us had ever been out on the streets selling products or taking money. Unfortunately we tended to regard customers as a bit of a nuisance."

PEOPLE

By Ann Kent

"However, one useful piece of advice I got from my former boss was that it was easier to put prices down than up and that it was a bad idea to undervalue yourselves. That single remark had a major impact on the way we ran the company."

"Nevertheless, we decided we needed something which would generate cash very quickly and we hit on the home-computer boom. We started licensing and developing computer games and sent out our first big shipment two months later."

Mr Cooke-Hurle is harsh in his assessment of the company's performance at that time. "We were naive, disorganized and rather arrogant. We thought the world would beat a path to our door. But it is easy to manage a company when things are going well, as they are now, and what we want

through at the beginning was a useful apprenticeship."

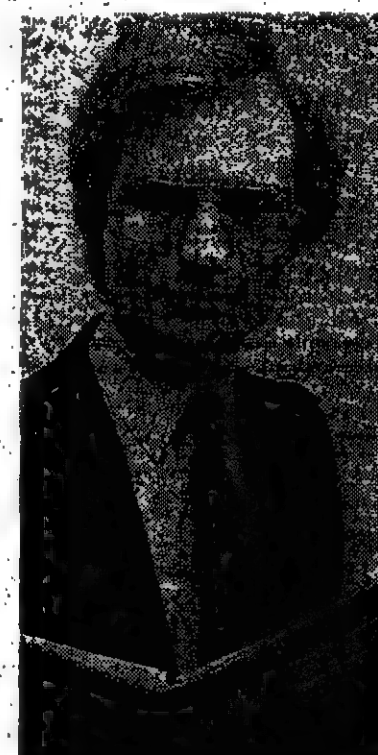
For the first year they worked a seven-day week — a practice Mr Cooke-Hurle deprecates. "It took four years to reach the stage where I could walk out of the office and forget about work. If you don't have a break, there is a serious risk of making mistakes."

By the summer of 1984 they had a successful computer game, *Full Throttle*, on the Sinclair Spectrum. But that November they stopped producing games. Making that decision was one of the hardest tests of how hard-nosed this organization is, but we could see the market was falling to bits and we got out in time, though we were still left with a pile of cash and virtually no products."

They came up with QED2, an office automation package designed to exploit the new market in local area networks. "The product was designed to fulfil customers' needs 90 per cent of the time. The trouble with a 100 per cent solution was that it would be more complicated. "We believe the operator is prepared to make some compromises if the product is easy to use," said Mr Cooke-Hurle.

IBM agreed to distribute QED2 and it dawned on Mr Cooke-Hurle that he might have an exportable product on his hands. Once again he raised capital from equity, but this time the sum had more thoughts on the end — £250,000 from the venture capital firm 3i. He has planned a three-stage export drive which will begin later this year with Australia, New Zealand and Scandinavia.

Before his travels begin, he is concentrating on reorganizing Quantex on more conventional lines. "The



Robin Cooke-Hurle: Going it on his own

five members of the management committee now have formal meetings once a fortnight. And we are establishing a management structure with defined levels of authority. "It may seem ludicrous in a company which only employs 17 people, but we are fully confident we will be getting bigger. And so I am consciously and deliberately becoming a company man again."

No soft line for Moscow buffs

By John Dahlburg

A shortage of Soviet software is driving the nation's computer buffs to copy ideologically suspect foreign games like *Raid on Moscow*, and deal in black-market programming, a Russian newspaper reported earlier this month.

"Buying a computer is just the half of it," the *Komsomolskaya Pravda* daily said in a review of the Soviet national computer scene. "Without programs, it's just like a tape-player without cassettes."

The Soviet Union, which uses powerful computers to guide its cosmonauts into orbit and to run its defence apparatus, has repeatedly stressed the importance of broadening the nation's computer culture.

But home-size computers such as the BK remain in

Limits on access to computers

notoriously short supply in stores, and the abacus is still more widely used than the pocket calculator.

The Soviet leadership has placed limits on access to computers, apparently out of reluctance to allow the information revolution's technology to make all information more available.

Two reporters from *Komsomolskaya Pravda* set off across Moscow to study the Soviet computer scene, meeting with officials, programmers and hackers, known in Russian as *Sinklerists*, apparently after Sir Clive Sinclair's home computers.

One *Sinklerist*, identified as Vasily Antonovich, showed the journalists a list of 277 computer programs he had copied and that he was selling for five roubles (about £5) apiece.

"In his catalogue there was not one nationally made program," the reporters noted. Another black marketer said a packet of 10 programs costs 80 to 200 roubles, the latter sum representing more than the average Soviet factory worker's monthly income.

Because of foreign-made programs that have been copied, Soviet children can remake their country's history by playing the battles of 1917 or pretend they are the anti-communist crusader Rambo, the paper said.

In the computer game *Raid on Moscow* the goal is to obliterate strategic targets in the Soviet Union while dodging fighter-interceptors and anti-aircraft fire.

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Nefax-18 has features normally found on bigger, more expensive machines. The A3 document feeder transmits

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TEL: 01-831 2992

Nothing can outfax a Nefax.

Japanese chips hit price snag

The South-East Asia grey market for Japanese chips, which is at the centre of a bitter trade dispute, is shrinking, but remains significant. Duke Liao, general manager of the Datatech Enterprises, a Taiwan technology concern, said that in the last three weeks the supply of Japanese chips in Taiwan had dried up.

For example, he said, he used to buy Japanese 256K dynamic random access memory chips (called Drams) for \$1.60 to \$1.80 each. Now Japanese brokers are quoting them at more than \$2.20, and no one is willing to buy at that price, he said.

American officials calculate the Japanese companies' cost of producing chips at approximately \$2.50 each.

The grey market involves computer chips sold outside Japan by private exporters rather than the makers themselves.

HORIZONS

A guide to
career opportunities

The models of efficiency

Model-making has
become a growth
industry with coursesavailable for trainees and
money to be made by
the talented, says Joan

Llewelyn Owens

A model conveys much more about a design than a drawing. You can view the potential new product from all angles and, in prototype form, a model can be handled and even operated. If the model is of a projected new building, everyone can see what effect it will have on the skyline or how it will fit in with existing buildings.

Models as a means of communicating ideas are now one of the designer's most important tools. This was apparent at the recent Royal Academy exhibition of British architecture when the public were able to see, for example, models of Norman Foster's proposed new BBC building and Richard Rogers's designs for Lloyd's of London and a new bridge across the Thames.

This last model was eight metres long with a timber base and foam buildings clad with plastic and sprayed with paint, standing beside a stretch of water.

Richard Rogers goes to Tetra Design Services for many of his models. The firm's designs are seen and props. When I asked Lesley Carty to explain what they have to do, she said: "The architectural model-maker is translating drawings, plans, and elevations into an object which not only models volume and space but shows the texture of surfaces, finishes, colour, solidity and transparency."

"His purpose is primarily to assist in obtaining planning permission, but also to notify the architect of the consequences of his design decision, and

Few collectors can
afford such models

ultimately to sell the idea to either the public or prospective buyers."

Model-making is a growth area for careers, though there isn't much scope to earn a living by making scale models of trains and soldiers for collectors; few individuals can afford to pay for such meticulous work. However, industrial designers rely a great deal on models and several have set up their own model-shops.

One such is the PDD Design Consultancy in Fulham, west London, which can, if necessary, take models right through to the point of batch production — say, half-a-dozen working prototypes which are then used for market trials and sales demonstrations. Models may also be block models, which are merely visual aids with no working parts, or something completely fantastic, like the Golden Egg, a caricature of a footballer for a cereal advertisement.

The prototype, however, enables the client to examine a design and its efficiency before going to the expense of making up for large-scale production. PDD's workshop manager is Simon Rhodes, who has a degree in product design. The models made by his team, ranging from environmentally-sealed computer keyboards and theatre lanterns to beerbottles for pub or catering trolleys,

have a number of purposes. Ergonomic aspects can be tested out. Are the switches and knobs convenient to use? Mechanisms can be checked for efficient working. Often models are used for photography for press releases, so that the artwork is ready before the first item comes off the production line.

For this type of work, model-makers have to be versatile, flexible people, capable of using a wide range of materials, including wood, card, rubber, plastics, fibre glass, and metals. What they make must be an accurate representation of the ultimate product.

The model-maker in advertising, however, is hired to make an image rather than an object. As Chris Wills of Metro Models explains: "The adman wants the model-maker to capture the essence of his product." To illustrate this he showed me a photograph of a boat they had created in the style of a sculpture by Alexander Corder. This was cast in brass and sprayed with paint. I was also fascinated by an ad for cigarettes, in which purple silk drapery had been slashed in several places, and car's eyes gleamed from the dark. Guess what brand it illustrated!

Such model-makers are very much into the surreal. But at times they may have to reproduce something with apparently complete fidelity. For example, Metro was asked to produce a picture of a girl dressed exactly like Queen Elizabeth I in one of her portraits. She was then to hold a potato spread on a fork. In seven days, having done research at the Victoria and Albert museum, Metro had the dress made from satin with silk organza and gold embroidery, and moulded all the jewellery. The turf was of stainless steel to simulate lace. They also created a 16th-century two-pronged fork.

There are many independent model-making concerns, often with a particular speciality. Pennicott Payne and Little make models for TV commercials. "A lot of products which are being advertised cannot stand the scrutiny of close-up film work," says John Pennicott. "They may be too small to be filmed properly and cameras may have depth of field problems."

The firm is often required to make non-animate objects appear to perform certain actions. Such models may be motorized or radio-controlled, move on wires, or be photographed frame by frame. They had recently constructed an eight-headed dragon which would be filmed with several cameras so that it had a three-dimensional look.

The ability to improvise is essential. Once on the film floor, the director or his client may have fresh ideas and changes have to be made on the spot. "It's quite different from display models made for exhibition, where everything is cut and dried," says Mr Pennicott.

As well as being used in TV commercials, models play important parts in many TV programmes and films, particularly in science fiction productions and fantasy, such as *Alien* in *Wonderland*. Certain firms specialize in sophisticated special effects, and the BBC employs its own design assistants.

Model-makers come from many backgrounds, including pattern-making and silver-smithing. At Metro, the team includes an industrial designer, a graduate in 3D design, a graduate in fine art, a sculptor, and a former architectural model-maker who studied graphics. Chris Wills trained as a cabinet-maker at Ryecroftwood College, where they also do some industrial prototype making.

Today, however, the industry often recruits from specialist model-making courses, such as those at Medway College of Design (BTEC HND in industrial design) and Herfordshire College of Art and Design (BTEC HND in design: model-making), and Sunderland Poly-

technic (HND in technical illustration, model-making and natural history illustration).

All Medway's students in the past 17 years have gone into relevant employment, and the other colleges have excellent records, too. The fact that the courses include secondments to model-making companies is in their favour.

Barking College of Technology offers a four-year course to train model-makers for motor vehicle manufacture, toy industries, product design, architectural and special effects models. The BTEC ND in theatre studies at Northbrook College in West Sussex also covers stage props, effects and theatre model-making.

A strong model-making element will be contained in Hounslow College's ND in industrial design, due to start in September. Barking College of Art offers a BTEC ND in 3D design (display and model-making).

While prospects for talented model-makers are excellent, and pay can be very good, only a few are employed on a full-time basis. The volume of work tends to fluctuate, and people are taken on as required for particular projects. It's a stimulating life for those who like problem-solving and are capable of doing good work to what are often very tight deadlines.

Courses cover stage
props and effects

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

LEGAL AID
O & M OFFICER

£13,076 - £16,657 (under review)

Following a recent review of Legal Aid administration, a new post has been established with responsibility for organisation and methods. The person appointed will be based at our Head Office in Central London.

O & M and Information Technology are rapidly merging and, with the increase in the use of computers, the successful applicant will ideally be acquainted with the potential of new technology and its effect on users.

Our requirement is essentially for thoroughly trained and experienced O & M practitioners. Candidates should be able to demonstrate practical experience in form design for the general public and/or the development and maintenance of clerical work measurement systems. Duties will include the development of procedure manuals and forms, the provision of professional advice to the computer team and line managers, and conducting a rolling programme of inspections, making recommendations to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the office under review.

Legal Aid is a publicly funded organisation. Benefits include 25 days annual leave, contributory index-linked pension scheme, and an interest free season ticket loan scheme.

Application forms and further details are available from:

The Personnel Manager, Legal Aid, Newspaper House, 5th Floor, 8-16 Great New Street, London EC4A 3BN. Tel: 01-953 7411 extn. 216.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 24th April 1987.

SOLICITOR

C 15K + Car

We require a Solicitor to work with this Authority's District Secretary (Legal) in a small but busy Legal Section.

The varied duties will provide good experience for those interested in developing a career in Local Government. Applicants should be able to demonstrate good professional qualifications experience in local government although consideration will be given to the right newly qualified applicants from private practice. The successful candidate can expect to participate in a wide range of legal activities in a small office dealing with a number of high level and exciting projects. The emphasis however is on litigation, advocacy, planning law and conveyancing.

Tanbridge is a progressive authority set in a beautiful corner of Surrey and is well served by both the M25 and M23. It has recently completely renewed its recruitment and remuneration packages and is now offering very competitive terms and conditions of employment (including a four year mortgage qualification allowance scheme). For further details and application form please contact the Personnel Section, on Caterham 46211 or write to the Head of Personnel and Management Services at the Council Offices, Harestone Valley Road, Caterham, CR3 6YN.

Closing date for applications: 21st April 1987.

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We can help you

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You should be a Solicitor with several years' post qualification experience and a proven track record as a working manager able to organise and motivate staff. This will fit you for this newly created post in the top management structure. The teams for which you are responsible deal with non-contentious work.

Ref: A253

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Two well-experienced Solicitors or Legal Executives to work on two exciting new projects - Phase 2 of the Bromley Town Centre Relief Road and a multimillion pound shopping and leisure scheme in the town centre. Experience in compulsory purchase, commercial conveyancing, planning, road closing or traffic management schemes an advantage. Ref: A239/A240

Contact us

Discuss the opportunities we can offer by telephoning 01-464 3333 ext. 3282 to speak to Richard Pugh the Head of Legal & Committee Services, or Amanda Lynch the Principal Managing Solicitor.

For further information and an application form please contact: Chief Personnel Officer, Bromley Civic Centre, Rochester Avenue, Bromley, BR1 3UH. Tel: 01-290 0324 (24 hour answering service). Please quote job reference shown above.

Closing date:

17th April 1987.

A graduate or soon to graduate in

MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS,
3-D DESIGN, ENGINEERING
(or related subjects)?

Why not try

TASC

TEACHING AS A CAREER

As a teacher of MATHS, PHYSICS or CRAFT DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY (CDT) you'll find a career that's challenging, stimulating and worthwhile.

To find out more, including details of the additional £1250 training bursary paid on top of the normal grant, contact your careers adviser or write to: Tony Hall, Information Branch (T), Department of Education and Science, Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1 7PH (or Telephone 01-934 9589).

GILLINGHAM
REWARDS ACHIEVEMENTS

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(MANAGEMENT)

£17,241 - £18,966 + Performance Reward

Seventeenth the continuing application of information technology to the management processes of the Council, you will take the lead in serving the newly created Performance Review Sub-committee and will be supported by the Council's Computer, Management Services and Personnel Sections.

You will have good educational qualifications and be experienced in the analysis of management problems and the application of information technology to their solution. Above all you will enjoy achieving personal targets at work and have the diplomatic skills to be a leader. Only those who score to be Chief Executives should apply.

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★ Limited Car

★ Generous relocation package up to £3,000 + 100% removals + repatriation allowance. Ref: 1/87

Professional Assistant

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This is an excellent career opportunity for a Graduate with working experience in Public Relations. Primarily assisting the Chief Executive in developing and maintaining good communications with the media and with interested groups within the local community, you will also work closely with him on confidential and analytical problems.

An ability to communicate well, both verbally and in writing is critical. You must be sufficiently conversant with local government to be able to convey an accurate understanding of the issues which interest the public.

★ Annual Performance Reward, maximum of 4 increments.

★ Limited Car

★ Generous relocation package up to £3,000 + 100% removals + repatriation allowance. Ref: 2/87

For further details please contact Caroline Adams, Personnel Officer at the Municipal Buildings, Gillingham, Kent ME7 3LA. Tel: (0834) 571777 (direct line 24 hours) or 50021 Ext. 249. Please quote appropriate reference number.

Closing date for completed applications: 10th April 1987.

Research/Archives
Assistant

...to deal with general correspondence and public enquiries and to help maintain the historical records of the Gallery.

You should normally have a good degree or equivalent qualification in a relevant subject. Exceptionally those with other qualifications or experience of special value also considered. Interest in the history of European painting and knowledge of modern foreign European languages desirable.

Salary (under review) £8145-£10,915.

Promotion prospects

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 21 April 1987) write to:

Chil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone:

(0256) 468551 (answering service office hours).

Please quote ref: G(10)382.

An equal opportunity employer

TOURIST OFFICER

£13,653 - £16,011 pa

CORNWALL's Tourist Officer is about to retire and, at a time when competition at home and abroad is particularly fierce, the Council wishes to appoint as his successor a marketing executive with the flair and imagination necessary to promote Cornwall, both nationally and internationally as a major holiday destination. Tourism is a vital part of the county's economy and in addition to running the Cornish Tourist Office, the postholder will need to work closely with the media, regional and local tourist organisations and the district councils and must be able to demonstrate proven managerial as well as marketing skills. Experience of work in tourism in either the public or private sector is essential.

Assistance with re-location expenses will be given, where appropriate.

Application form from Clerk & Chief Executive, County Hall, Truro TR1 3AY. Tel: 01872 74222. Ext. 2110 or 2108. Closing date: 10th April 1987.

CORNWALL
COUNTY COUNCILMid-Downs Health Authority
West Sussex

DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL

Scale 27 - £14,984 - £19,109

An opportunity has arisen for an energetic and progressive, suitably qualified and experienced personnel manager to join the District Policy Group of this Authority. Important emphasis is being placed on developing the personnel service and promoting training activities across the District, and the successful candidate will have the opportunity of stimulating and leading changes in these areas.

The Mid-Downs Health Authority is a growing District with many challenges. There is an extensive capital programme including the building of a new District General Hospital in Haywards Heath (£24 million) plus further capital developments at Crawley, Horsham and Haywards Heath. The Authority currently employs 4,500 staff.

Applications by way of CV, quoting the name and addresses of two referees, to be submitted by 21 April 1987 to Mr Peter Catchpole, District General Manager, Mid-Downs Health Authority. Tel: Haywards Heath 457941 Ext. 29. A candidates information package is also available.

CIVIC TRUST
wishes to appoint a
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

To work with and support the activities of local assembly, Civic Trust, wishes to appoint a Development Officer to assist in the development of local assembly and to assist in the development of local assembly and to assist in the development of local assembly.

ENGLISH NATIONAL BOARD
FOR NURSING, MIDWIFERY AND
HEALTH VISITINGMANAGER - NURSES CENTRAL
CLEARING HOUSE

£10,874 - £13,222

The Board requires a Manager for the Nurses Central Clearing House which provides a centralised system for processing applications for nurse training courses in England. The Clearing House is situated in Bristol with 24 staff and the Manager will be responsible to the Director of Administration at the Board's London Headquarters. Candidates must have an understanding of the financial and personnel skills inherent in successful management and be able to demonstrate a record of effective management within the private or public sectors. A practical knowledge of computer systems and their applications is essential.

An application package can be obtained from Mr P. J. Alcorn, Director of Administration, English National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, Victory House, 170 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1P 0HA - Telephone 01 388 3131. Closing date for receipt of applications: Friday, 10 April 1987.

Interviews of short listed candidates will take place in London on Wednesday, 29 April 1987.

LONDON & QUADRANT
HOUSING TRUST
DIRECTOR

c £33,000 + car

London & Quadrant Housing Trust are seeking to appoint a new Director to succeed Michael Smith, the present Director, who will be retiring in October 1987. The Director is responsible for the implementation of policies and attainment of objectives set by the Committee, and for the administration of the Trust on a day to day, year to year basis.

One of London's major inner city housing associations, the Trust has 10,000 homes in management, with a significant development pipeline, and is committed to a multi-faceted programme of new initiatives. To carry out its work the Trust employs 230 staff, based at its Head Office in Lee Green and at six sites offices situated in the London Boroughs. Applications are sought from suitable candidates, who have a proven record of successful managerial and administrative skills at a senior level together with a commitment to social housing. Experience of the housing association movement will be desirable, although not essential.

Please apply by 10th April in confidence with a full CV to: The Chairman, London and Quadrant Housing Trust, Osborn House, Osborn Terrace, London SE3 9DR.

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

CHESHIRE PROBATION SERVICE
TRAINING OFFICER

£11,952-£14,862

WINSFORD

The focus of this newly created full time post will be to develop and provide the in-service training arrangements in this public authority employing almost one hundred probation officers and a similar number of staff from other disciplines. The officer appointed will be located at the Service's training centre in Winsford and will be accountable to the Assistant Chief Probation Officer.

Applications will be welcomed from resourceful and imaginative training professionals who have at least six years relevant experience and ability to demonstrate a capacity to plan and manage training programmes in consultation with line managers. Knowledge of training in the fields of social work or the administration of justice or local government would be an advantage.

For further details please contact: Mr A.D. Porter, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, 15 Wallis Street, Sandbach, Cheshire. Tel: 0270 763954. Closing date for applications: 14th April 1987.

An Equal Opportunity Employer.

OFFICE MANAGER

The British Retailers Association requires an Office Manager to be responsible for all aspects of routine administration.

The Association is the Trade Association for multiple, department store, and supermarket retailers.

There is a staff of 29 and the Office Manager reports to the Secretary of the Association.

The principal duties include the recruitment and control of junior general office staff, the procurement of office supplies, equipment, and maintenance, housekeeping responsibilities in the library and personnel computer rooms and overall supervision of the mailing room.

The successful applicant is likely to be over 30 with good secretarial skills, administrative and personnel experience gained in a professional or similar office.

There is a non-contributory pension scheme, season ticket loan, and five weeks holiday per year.

Salary £211,000 depending on experience.

Please send full CV marked strictly confidential to: The Secretary, British Retailers Association, Commonwealth House, 1-19 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1PA.

ARTHRITIS CARE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Applications are invited for this appointment following the retirement of the present Chief Executive.

Arthritis Care is a registered National Charity with an income approaching £2,500,000 per annum, and is concerned with the welfare and rehabilitation of arthritis sufferers.

The ideal candidate will probably have retired early from a successful career, and

- i) will have had management experience at a high level, including all financial matters.
- ii) will have had direct or indirect experience of disability, and a genuine concern for related problems.
- iii) will be between 50 and 60 years of age.

Please send s.a.e. for further information and an application form to:

Arthritis Care, 6 Grosvenor Crescent, London, SW1X 7ER, marking your envelope 'Chief Executive'.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN
COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

Research associate sought by leading communications policy institute to assist with short-term reports and major multi-client international projects. Superior analytical and writing skills essential; fluency in French or German a must. Relevant degree (e.g. economics, law, communications, MBA/MPA), work experience and knowledge of PC desirable. We are looking for an unusual, highly motivated person to grow with us.

Salary to start: £14,500 pa.

Please reply to:

Head of Projects International Institute of Communications (IIC)

Tavistock House South

Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9LF

NORTH KESTVEN
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Grantham Community Programme Agency

FARM WOODLANDS PROJECT OFFICER

Required for initial 12 month period to develop farm woodlands project.

For further details contact Malcolm

Watts, North Kesteven District Council,

Ensign, Stamford, Lincs.

Tel: 0529 303241, ext 72

dream

go through repetitive tasks as dumb robots used to do. Instead, they diagnose problems and find solutions.

He said: "They will have sensors so that they perceive what the problem is and determine on the spot the appropriate plan of action."

Tony Materna, an expert in the use of computers in the design of buildings, is one of a growing number of firms trying to build computers, say, to build a new house for business and home use.

Mr Materna said: "I think that by the end of the century, there will be a computer in every house where a conventional computer is now used, or a working alongside a conventional computer."

"It is possible that a computer will decide the program into a computer."

"In business, in the future, you'll simply speak into a word processor and it will write the reports based on the spoken into the machine."

Mr Materna predicts that in the near future, for the price of a medium-size car, people will be able to have their own maid and other services with the push of a "household unit".

What if more help is around the house? Mr Materna would be building a clone of himself. Mr Materna, ready to build a house, may have a TV set.

The only trick to using service would be using machine to perform the

137

No solution for Moscow buffs

By John Doherty

A shortage of Soviet cars is driving the market price of Soviet cars up to a point where they are no longer a bargain. A Russian in reported earlier this

"Buying a car is a pain in the neck of it is a somnolent state in a review of personal computer."

"Without programs like a tape-player cassette."

The Soviet Union uses powerful computers to guide its missiles and to run its defence system. The importance of the computer in the nation's computer. But home-size or such as the BK 11

Limits on access to computers

extremely short in stores, and the state more widely used a market calculator.

The Soviet Union placed limits on its computers, apparently to prevent a market in the nation's computer. But home-size or such as the BK 11

These hit snag

These hit snag

These hit snag

These hit snag

These hit snag

These hit snag

These hit snag

These hit snag

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Move up to No 1, with a top London Borough! Director of Engineering c.£35,000

If you are an ambitious No 2, just waiting for an opportunity to move to the top, this is your chance... here in Harrow.

As well as being one of London's most attractive boroughs, we're one of Britain's most successful and go-ahead. Our record in education, for instance, is second to none.

We are also widely respected for the freedom we give our professionals to carry out their jobs - and pursue their careers!

Some really exciting and worthwhile projects are under way here - including a major town centre development. You'll be deeply involved in them all.

As Director of Engineering, you will have the opportunity, as a member of the Directors' Group, to contribute directly to the management of the Council's affairs.

You are naturally ambitious and successful, in a civil and municipal engineering career - almost certainly in local government or the public sector.

Your remuneration is c.£35,000, incorporated into the kind of excellent package you would expect from an organisation like ours.

As a first step, please telephone Keith Gowing, acting Chief Executive, on 01-863 5611, for an informal discussion. Ask for him on ext. 2239.

Harrow Engineering
an equal opportunity employer

Tourism is Britain's biggest growth industry

Your financial expertise
will help keep it that way

Tourism is not only Britain's largest and fastest growing industry, it is also one of its most diverse. Here at the English Tourist Board, a prime force in strengthening England's competitive position in the international tourism market-place, we encourage investment in the widest possible range of pace-setting initiatives - marinas, indoor leisure resorts, shopping complexes, museums and inner city facilities to name just a few.

It's variety that you'll enjoy as one of the Investment Appraisal Executives within our Development Division. You'll be responsible for assessing the viability of a number of major projects at a time - ranging in value from £100,000 to several million - and for stimulating investment funds. In doing so you'll travel extensively throughout England, liaising with tourism developers, financial institutions, local authorities and regional tourist boards.

Our Development Division is growing as fast as our industry. This year our 'Innovation Fund' has been increased by the Government to £12 million and is expected to increase still further in the future. As well as variety and project responsibility you can expect excellent career prospects. Within this environment you can look forward to managerial status within 2 years. By then you'll have proved your ability to communicate effectively at all levels, to make convincing verbal and written presentations to Board Directors, to work to tight deadlines and to utilise the skills of a multi-disciplinary team. A confident, personable graduate in a relevant discipline, you'll already be familiar with financial appraisal techniques, have a strong interest in tourism and hold a clean driving licence. You'll also be keen to use your initiative and numeracy within a growth industry and to enjoy a salary of c.£14,000 plus generous benefits.

To arrange an early interview, please send your cv immediately to Norman McCain, Senior Personnel Officer, ETB, Thames Tower, Blacks Road, London W6 9EL.

English
Tourist Board

BBC APPOINTMENTS

REPORTER/ PRESENTER

Television
Plymouth
£10,412 - £14,725*

BBC Television South West seeks a Reporter/Presenter to follow in the footsteps of Kate Adie, Sue Lawley, Ian Leeming and others whose successful careers started in Plymouth. The duties include newsreading on our regional television news bulletins; reporting for and occasionally presenting our highly-rated news magazine *Spotlight*; and contributing to network television news and *Breakfast Time*. If you are a journalist with radio or television experience who can originate ideas and convey them accurately with fluency and style, contact us immediately. This is offered as a 1-year contract. (Ref. 5690/T)

BBC North West REPORTER Radio Merseyside

Are you a young, ambitious reporter with at least three years' journalistic experience? If so, Radio Merseyside has a vacancy that may interest you. The work is primarily reporting, interviewing, bulletin writing and newsreading. Good microphone voice and current driving licence essential. Salary £28,954 - £31,110*. Based Liverpool. (Ref. 3203/T)

We are an equal
opportunities employer

Relocation expenses considered for permanent posts. *Plus allowance of £597 p.a. Contact us immediately for application form (quote appropriate Ref. and enclose a.s.e.) BBC Appointments, London W1A 1AA. Tel. 01-227 5789.

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Every penny counts in the National Health Service and we need the best trained accountants to provide the best possible service for our patients.

We offer graduates a comprehensive training in accountancy and financial management within one of the most complex and demanding environments. Starting this September, you will get the chance to help shape health services using your skills in a job where they really count.

We will give you management training and a full opportunity to study for the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy qualification - at our expense. Starting salary is £28,821 (including London weighting), rising to £32,151 when you pass CIPFA PE1 and £35,700 when you have PE2. Already part qualified? We will pay you in recognition of this.

If you have the necessary academic ability and the managerial potential required, then drop us a line for an application form.

Write to: The Employee Services Unit, North West Thames Regional Health Authority, 40 Endeavour Terrace, London W2 3JH.

or by phone: 01-222 9011 ext 3135

Closing date: 18th April 1987.

Working to Equal Opportunity

WESTERN ISLES HEALTH BOARD WESTERN ISLES SCHOOL OF NURSING (In Association with Highland College of Nursing and Midwifery)

NURSE TEACHER/CLINICAL TEACHER

Applications for this challenging post are invited from teachers who wish to develop their potential and add a new dimension to their teaching skills. In many respects this post is quite unique. Based in Lewis, the largest of a group of islands known as the Western Isles, off the north west coast of Scotland, the postholder has the opportunity to visit students on accommodation to the Southern group of islands known as the Uists & Barra. Opportunity is likewise afforded to visit the Highland College of Nursing at mainland Inverness with whom the Training School is linked.

A new First Stage First Level Training Programme is now in operation with mental health and community nursing experiences as vital components. Participation in in-service education related to student training programmes is also offered. Involving applicants should be suitably qualified and, while R.N.M.N. is not essential, it could be advantageous.

Temporary housing accommodation available. Whitley Council Conditions of Service and Salary apply. (Nurses' Salary Scale applies).

Job description and application form, together with further information on the islands, are available from: Nursing Administration, Western Isles Health Board, 37 South Beach Street, Stormway, Isles of Lewis, Tel. (0853) 2977. Ext. 35.

Informal discussion by telephone is welcome. Closing date is April 18th 1987.

Administrative and Legal Services

SENIOR LEGAL ASSISTANT

(up to £13,000 pa)

Outstanding career opportunity in Local Government.

Haverling - a large and active Borough - seeks an enthusiastic and capable assistant to join a highly professional team.

This post offers an excellent opportunity for an experienced person who is keen to further a career in Local Government and to become involved in a wide variety of property matters including town planning notices and agreements.

Presently the Council is involved in a number of developments and, therefore the post offers a considerable variety of work content.

The Council undertakes all the functions associated with an Outer London Borough, providing services for a population of some 240,000. The Borough enjoys a high level of successful development; it is a thriving, busy centre for industry, business and employment, yet remains an attractive area in which to live and work.

The post is based in Romford which is situated on the border of London and Essex with excellent road and rail connections to London and the East and South coasts.

Haverling provides: 75% towards the cost of removal expenses; assistance with the cost of relocation expenses in certain cases; temporary housing in appropriate cases; a 36 hour week with flexible working hours; 26 days annual leave plus bank holidays; and an attractive range of nationally and locally negotiated conditions of service.



Interested? Why not ask for an application form and job description or telephone Felix Bourne, Principal Assistant Solicitor on Romford 46040, extension 3031 for an informal discussion.

For an application form and job description, telephone Romford 46040, extension 3012/3018. Closing date for applications: 15th April 1987.

Management Auditor Key role in major charity £20,699-£22,414

Barnardo's is a Charity providing services to young people and families with special needs and to do this we raise funds from the public and government sources and maintain a range of support services including financial, accounting, property management and publicity. We are committed to achieving effectiveness and value for money in all these operations.

There are two main aspects to this appointment. One is to assist Directors in the constant appraisal of the use of all resources to ensure maximum benefits including the use of management services techniques. The other is to monitor internal audit control systems to ensure that assets are adequately protected, income properly accounted for and that payments are properly authorised.

The vacancy arises from the death of the previous occupant, who had held the post since its inception in 1974. The role is therefore well established. However, there will, no doubt, be benefits to be gained from the fresh and different approach of the new leader, who will also be able to contribute to our forthcoming review of our computer systems. This could lead to us setting up our own data processing facility.

The post reports to the Senior Director and is based at our headquarters. It calls for a candidate of degree level or equivalent, with training and/or qualifications in either computer studies, management or business studies, accountancy or administration with wide ranging experience in accounting, audit, computing and management services.

Barnardo's is a Christian Child Care organisation and offers a comprehensive package of conditions of service including - relocation expenses and transferrable pension. Applications for posts are welcomed from persons irrespective of disability, marital status, sex or race.

Further details and application forms are available from Mr V H Gray, Personnel Manager, Dr Barnardo's, Tanners Lane, Barnet, Herts, EN4 6JF. Tel: 01-359-8822.

Closing date 16th April 1987.



SOUTH SHROPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL DEPUTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES OFFICER

NJC Deputy Chief Officer Salary
Range £14,097 - £15,507

The person appointed as Deputy Environmental Services Officer will be a Corporate Member of the Institution of Housing and will have extensive experience in one of these professions, together with proven managerial experience, preferably in Local Government.

The Deputy will support and advise the Environmental Services Officer in the management of the Environmental Services Function which comprises Housing, Health and Welfare and Technical Administration. In addition to this role the Deputy will lead, and be responsible for, either the Housing Section or the Health and Welfare Section of the Function.

The successful applicant will preferably be between 30 and 45 years of age and will be occupying a managerial position at present (in local government or in the private sector).

Full details of the post are available from the undersigned (Telephone: 0527 4241) Box 214, Applications must be received by noon on Friday, 24th April 1987.

Interviews will be held over the 27th and 28th May 1987.

C. KELLY
Chief Executive

Building Services and Strategic Planning Officer

Salary: £17783 - £18897

Applications are invited from chartered engineers or surveyors or suitably qualified and experienced persons for this senior post. Responsibilities will include the management of buildings and estates on all sites of the Polytechnic, and the provision of professional services for the maintenance and development of our buildings.

Application forms and further details from the Staffing Officer, The Hatfield Polytechnic, PO Box 105, College Lane, Hatfield AL10 9AB, or please telephone (0475) 751121.

Please quote reference 255.

Closing date for receipt of applications 10 April 1987.

The Hatfield Polytechnic

BOROUGH OF RHUDDLAN BOROUGH SECRETARY

J.N.C. For Chief Officers Scale
(£19,816 x 4 increments - £21,798 p.a.)
(Arbitration Award Pending)

Applications are invited for this appointment, which will become vacant on October 1, 1987, upon the retirement of the present Borough Secretary.

Applicants must be admitted Solicitors of the Supreme Court with considerable experience in the practice of local government law and administration, and will be responsible to the Council for the conduct of its legal, central administrative, and secretarial business, as well as being a member of the Chief Officers' Management Team taking an active role in the corporate management of the affairs of the Borough Council.

The Borough embraces the resort towns of Rhyl and Prestatyn, as well as a substantial rural area including the Cathedral City of St Asaph, and forms part of the seaward extremity of the Vale of Clwyd - an area of outstanding beauty. Good, reasonably priced, housing available. Relocation allowance of £500, 100% removal expenses and temporary housing will be given in approved cases. Food essential user car allowance.

Full particulars available from me (telephone: 0745 582288). Applications by letter, giving details of age, education, qualifications and experience together with names and addresses of two referees must reach me by 12 noon, Thursday, April 16, 1987. Receipt will only be acknowledged upon request, for which pre-paid, stamped and addressed envelope should be enclosed. Interviewing will be held on Friday, April 17, 1987. Candidates must so indicate.

R. Stewart Jones, Borough Secretary,
Council Offices, St Asaph,
Clwyd, LL17 0RN

Employee Relations

Up to c.£14K
The Corporation employs around 700 in 13 locations and manages a budget of £900 million.

An experienced personnel professional is needed to strengthen the employee relations team to build on current success and to contribute to future development. You will initially be involved in:-

- Development of flexible reward systems
- Job evaluation and organisational review
- Collective bargaining, especially at local level, and assisting in the introduction of a major computerisation exercise
- Provision of advice and support to managers across the full range of employment issues
- Development of conditions of employment.

The Corporation is committed to fair housing policies. In our own organisation we ensure equality of opportunity in all our selections, appointments and management processes.

For further information, please contact Philip Giffan, Employee Relations Manager, by April 8th at The Housing Corporation, 148 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0BN. Telephone: 01-387 9466.



Personal/ Research Assistant

Carlisle

c.£14,000

To support the Conservative Group Leader and his Group on the County Council.

The main duties of the post will include research in connection with present and possible future policies. Also briefing the Leader, preparation of policy statements and the comparison of achievements with policy aims.

Initially, a fixed term appointment until 1st June, 1989, the post will be located in Carlisle, but you will be expected to work closely with the Leader who lives in the south of the County.

You will be a graduate (or equivalent) with the ability to communicate at all levels and to gather, assess and present information lucidly and concisely.

Further details and application form (a.s.e. please) from J.E. Barnett, Director of Economic Development, Economic Development and Corporate Policy Department, The County, Carlisle CA2 8WA. Previous applicants need not re-apply. Closing date for applications 17th April, 1987. Post open to both men and women.



THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

FINANCE OFFICER

The Queen's College invites applications from qualified accountants for the post of Finance Officer.

It is likely that the successful applicant, who should be within the age range 30-40 years, will have considerable accountancy experience in either a university or in commerce; a knowledge of computerised systems is a pre-requisite.

The annual salary upon appointment will be within the range £14,245 to £18,210 per annum, plus other benefits.

Further particulars can be obtained from the Home Bursar, The Queen's College, Oxford to whom applications, together with the names and addresses of two referees, should be sent by 20th April 1987.

SHARED OWNERSHIP HOUSING ASSOCIATION LIMITED DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

(No Advertisement)
Salary Scale SO2: £12,492 to £13,185
plus Essential Car User Allowance

Have you the initiative and drive needed to work for one of the largest and most go-ahead London Housing Associations, actively providing new initiatives in the City of Westminster and the London Boroughs of Barnet, Brent and Harrow?

The post is an important one, in being the leading position for the Association's development activity and combines the development responsibility of acquiring property, putting it on site and being responsible for the building or conversion. The successful applicant will have a commercial outlook to introduce new ideas and possess the ability to identify and develop work and follow them through. Experience of Housing Corporation or Local Authority procedures is desirable but general development experience would be taken into account.

Application forms and job descriptions are available from: Julie Amber, Personnel Officer, Shared Ownership Housing Association Limited, Brent House, Park Parade, Harlesden NW10 4HT. Telephone 01-961 4804.

SOHA is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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Legal appointments appear on pages 10, 41, 42 and 43.

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

RICHARDS BUTLER

A MULTI-DISCIPLINE PRACTICE?

Although well known as a leading firm of international shipping lawyers, Richards Butler practises in many other fields of law including Aviation, Company and Commercial, Employment, Intellectual Property, International Trade and Commodities, Litigation, Matrimonial, Media, Pensions, Property, Tax and Trusts.

The wide breadth of the practice has been an important factor in our continuous expansion; this has been achieved by growth and promotion internally and by the introduction of additional strength at partner and assistant level from outside the firm. The career opportunities for talented, ambitious lawyers with good academic qualifications are therefore exceptional. We reward commitment and enthusiasm with a competitive remuneration package. There are also opportunities to work in our two overseas offices in Hong Kong and Abu Dhabi.

Although we have 51 partners and a staff of 815, we still retain a friendly and civilised office equipped to deal effectively with today's demands and pressures.

Some of the openings which presently

exist are outlined below, but at all levels we are always ready to consider those who have a contribution to make to the further development of our wide-ranging practice.

COMPANY AND COMMERCIAL

This busy and expanding department requires both recently qualified and experienced solicitors at all levels. The department advises clients on a wide range of corporate and commercial matters including company formations, mergers and reconstructions, acquisitions and disposals of companies and businesses, monopolies and competition law, and intellectual property rights.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND COMMODITIES

A qualified solicitor with up to three years post qualification litigation experience to assist in this rapidly growing department, with all aspects of international trade including London commercial arbitrations. Previous experience in this field is not essential but the ability to work fast under pressure is important.

MATRIMONIAL

This department requires a recently

qualified solicitor preferably with some knowledge of family work. The emphasis is on the various financial aspects of matrimonial matters.

PENSIONS

A new vacancy arises in this thriving department. Working in this area needs a sound knowledge of trust principles, the capacity for original research in complex and fast-changing legislation and the ability to draft with precision and clarity. Pensions are receiving growing attention from Government and clients.

Candidates meeting these criteria do not need previous pensions experience although this must be an advantage.

PROPERTY

Our practice covers the whole range of commercial property work. To help with an ever increasing work load we require three solicitors, one with two years' or more relevant experience, able to work with the minimum of supervision, and the other two having recently qualified; we also need a legal executive who has experience in the legal aspects of estate management and residential conveyancing.

SHIPPING

This department requires two solicitors with up to two years' experience to deal with our ever increasing volume of general shipping and insurance work including, in particular, charterparty disputes and cargo claims.

TAX

If you are two or three years qualified with experience in corporate tax and in particular in asset financing transactions, or are more recently qualified and keen to undertake a mixture of commercial and personal tax work, or varied private client work often with an international flavour, this department would like to hear from you.

We are equally happy to consider applications for these vacancies from barristers willing to re-qualify.

Please apply in strict confidence including personal and career details to:
Malcolm Farrer-Brown,
Richards Butler,
5 Clifton Street, London EC2A 4DO.
Tel: 01-247 6555.

PROPERTY • SHIPPING • AVIATION • EMPLOYMENT

PENSIONS • COMPANY AND COMMERCIAL • TAX & TRUSTS • MATRIMONIAL

MEDIA • INTERNATIONAL TRADE • LITIGATION

COMPANY SOLICITOR

Reading, Berkshire

Avco Trust is a U.K. subsidiary of one of the world's largest finance companies. We are looking for an experienced Solicitor to head our established Legal Department.

Several years commercial experience are required, some of which will have been gained within the financial sector. A thorough understanding of consumer credit and commercial legislation is essential as is the ability to offer practical and sound commercial advice to all levels of management. In addition to legal expertise, there is a need to demonstrate a high level of managerial and inter-

personal skills. The position provides the opportunity to participate as a key member of the senior executive team.

We will pay a competitive salary for experience, in addition to an excellent benefit package including Car, Mortgage Subsidy, Life Assurance, Medical Cover and Contributory Pension. Relocation assistance will be provided where necessary.

Please write including details of experience and your expected salary to Alison Love, Avco Trust, Avco House, Castle Street, Reading, Berks RG1 7DW (0734) 586123.

AVCO TRUST



LEGAL/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

REF: PO 136A

Laura Ashley Limited, international fashion designers, manufacturers and retailers of garments and soft furnishings, are to make an important appointment to strengthen their administrative team.

Based at our headquarters in Carmo, Mid Wales, the successful candidate will assist the Administration Manager/Solicitor in the provision of legal advice, undertaking administrative duties and conducting legal research into aspects of law (including international law) relevant to the Company, particularly with regard to commercial contracts and mercantile law, product liability and labelling, intellectual property and Company law. The assistant will also be involved in minor litigation and assist in property conveyancing and leasing.

Candidates should be able to offer a law degree and preferably some relevant experience. A flexible approach to work is important and previous experience in accounts and budgetary control would also be particularly desirable.

This post will attract a package of remuneration and benefits which reflect the importance attached to the contribution expected of the successful applicant. Relocation will apply where appropriate.

If you have the necessary qualifications and experience please apply in writing with full curriculum vitae to Roy Morgan, Laura Ashley Limited, Personnel Department, St David's House, Newtown, Powys quoting the appropriate reference number.

LEGAL ASSISTANT

c£11,000 pa London W1

The Motor Agents Association is the principal trade association for the retail motor industry. Our members sell, service and repair all types of motor vehicles and sell petrol.

A vacancy exists for a Legal Assistant to join a small and busy team at our Head Office in London. The legal department provides advice to members and the Association's executives on a whole range of matters relating to the conduct of members' businesses and their legal problems, the preparation of reports and the formulation of views or responses to government consultative papers.

This position offers an excellent opportunity for the successful applicant to gain practical experience in a broad field of commercial activity.

Applicants should hold a professional legal qualification and have a sound knowledge of commercial and consumer law, especially contract and tort.

In addition to a competitive starting salary, we offer an attractive benefits package, including 25 days' holiday, BUPA membership, contributory pension scheme and season ticket loan.

Please apply in confidence with full CV including details of your current salary to:

Miss V. L. Sykes,
Employee Relations Executive,
Motor Agents Association,
201 Great Portland Street,
London W1N 6AB.
Tel: 01 580 9122.

Heads of Department

CBI

Commercial and Company Affairs — Legal Division

The Confederation of British Industry has two vacancies in its Legal Division of its Company and Environmental Affairs Directorate. The Directorate is responsible for most aspects of the law as it affects companies, excluding the fields of industrial relations, employment and taxation.

Head of Commercial Affairs

Responsibilities include advising on Commercial, Consumer, Intellectual Property and Insurance Law.

Head of Company Affairs

Responsibilities include advising on Company and Competition Law.

Both post holders advise on policy at UK and EC levels.

To be suitable for either of these challenging appointments you will be a self-motivated, energetic solicitor, barrister or advocate of about 5 years standing. Versatility is essential as is the ability to draft clearly and to communicate at all levels.

Salary around £15,000 per annum depending on qualifications and experience.

Please reply enclosing comprehensive CV stating present salary to: Personnel Department, Confederation of British Industry, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DU.

BOODLE
HATFIELD

FINANCIAL AND TAX PLANNING

Boodle Hatfield act for major UK and overseas clients of substance whose interests require careful but creative financial and tax planning.

We are seeking an able lawyer with at least two years' experience, preferably but not exclusively, involving emphasis on capital taxes and trusts. Applicants should also have the ability to advise clients and their other professional advisers personally and with clarity on complex matters.

Please reply with full professional details to:
Richard Moyse, Boodle Hatfield, Brookfield House, 44 Davies Street, London W1Y 2BL.

FAMILY LAW

Solicitors in South Buckinghamshire seek a young solicitor with up to 18 months post admission experience to undertake and develop the continuous business work-load in branch office.

Apply with full CV to:
John Cleator
WINTER TAYLORS
Park House, London Road,
High Wycombe.

LITIGATION

Substantial firm of Solicitors in South Buckinghamshire seeks young solicitor with up to 18 months post admission experience to undertake and develop the continuous business work-load in branch office.

Apply with full CV to:
John Cleator
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High Wycombe.

BRIGHTON POLYTECHNIC LECTURER

11/SENIOR LECTURER IN LAW

£9,595 - £15,173

To teach Law within the Brighton Business School, in particular Company Law and General Principles of Law. An interest in teaching, specialist subjects on the CPE course would be an advantage.

Applicants should have a good degree or higher degree in law and relevant experience. A professional qualification would be an additional recommendation.

Applications will be considered from persons wishing to be appointed on a 12 month basis, in order to continue legal work outside of the Polytechnic.

For further details and application forms, please contact the Personnel Department, Brighton Polytechnic, Minter House, Lewes Road, Moulsecombs, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 4AT. Tel: (01273) 82555, ext. 524.

Closing date: April 10.

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Reynolds Porter Chamberlain are a well established firm in one office in High Holborn. We believe in our clients having the best of both worlds, modern expertise and traditional personal service.

We need able and enthusiastic lawyers to join our team.

Commercial Property

We undertake all types of transactions affecting freehold and leasehold property. Major clients include property companies, manufacturing concerns and farming interests. We lay particular emphasis on relieving both the individual and corporate client of worry. We would like a lawyer with three years well rounded experience in all aspects of Conveyancing to join us.

Professional Indemnity

A major part of our practice is structured specifically to meet the needs of insurance companies and of Lloyd's Underwriters. We provide a full litigation service on their behalf in defence of claims for professional negligence as well as in many other areas of liability insurance. We need two lawyers both with about two years experience to join this part of our expanding practice.

Applicants should have good relevant experience in private practice. We offer an excellent working environment, attractive and rewarding career prospects and salary and benefits package to match.

If you wish to find out more, please write with career details and current salary to:
Colin Ellis, Reynolds Porter Chamberlain, Chichester House, 278-282 High Holborn, London WC1V 7HA.

Telephone: 01-242 2877

Reynolds Porter Chamberlain

ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

Commercial Contracts
London-based from £18,800

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Operating from a base in E3, you will be responsible for providing a legal service to the Contract Manager's team, specialising in commercial law and litigation in relation to the company's contracts. This role will involve regular travel to districts throughout the Region, drafting contracts and advising on commercial law and undertaking litigation (including some advocacy).

You are likely to be a solicitor with experience gained in a large company, commercial practice or local government. Good communications skills are necessary and you should be able to work on your own initiative.

Salary will be supported by the benefits associated with a major commercial employer, including car user's allowance and generous holiday entitlement.

Please write or telephone for an application form, quoting ref: 801618, to: Personnel Services Officer (Functional), British Gas plc, North Thames, North Thames House, London Road, Staines, Middlesex TW18 4AE. Tel: Staines (0784) 61666 ext 3422.

An equal opportunity employer

British Gas
North Thames

University of London

CHAIR OF ORIENTAL LAWS AT THE SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES

The Senate invite applications for the above Chair. Applications will be considered from those of appropriate scholarly standing in Oriental Laws with preference given to candidates who have specialised in Islamic Law. The person appointed will be a member of the Department of Law and, in addition to his or her own research, will participate in the vigorous programme of undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, including research and interdisciplinary teaching. The appointment will date from 1 October 1987.

Applications (10 copies) should be submitted to the Teachers' Section (T) University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU, from whom further particulars should first be obtained.

The closing date for receipt of application is 15 May 1987.

Meredith Scott

PENSIONS to c.£40,000 Well known EC2 practice seeks experienced lawyer to join impressive departmental team.

COMMERCIAL CONVEYANCING to c.£32,000 Recognised EC4 practice requires young solicitor probably between 2-5 years qualified with view to partnership in defined period.

BANKING to c.£27,000 A young corporate lawyer with at least 2 years relevant experience of stock exchange and "Yellow Book" work, is needed by medium sized City practice.

LITIGATION to c.£23,000 Major WC2 practice requires solicitors ideally 1-4 years admitted to specialise in insurance, construction and general litigation.

MIXED CONVEYANCING to c.£18,000 Old established, growing Westminster area firm seeks young solicitor experienced or newly qualified for interesting range of property work.

Meredith Scott Recruitment
17 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1AA.
01-543 0835 or 01-541 3897 (after office hours)

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

CORPORATE LAWYER

International Company Acquisitions

Opportunity for a Solicitor, late twenties or early thirties, with several years' experience in company and commercial law - preferably in a City firm - to join a well-known international Group as Legal Adviser and member of the senior management team at their offices in Central London.

A far-reaching corporate expansion programme is being pursued in the UK, the Continent, and the USA. The Legal Adviser, therefore, in addition to general corporate and contractual matters, will be heavily engaged in company acquisitions involving not only technical legal skills but also

a keen commercial approach. Knowledge of the Takeover Code and of the requirements of the Stock Exchange is important. It will also be necessary to become familiar with the workings of the stock exchanges in the major financial centres overseas.

The position will suit an ambitious young Solicitor, keen to make use of his company law expertise within a dynamic corporate environment. An excellent salary will be offered, plus car and other benefits.

Please contact Sonya Rayner, either by telephoning her or by sending her your personal details.

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Industry

Litigation To £22,000
Our client, a large public body requires two solicitors with litigation experience. The position involves commercial litigation, planning and non-contentious matters. Candidates should be from 1 to 5 years' qualified, aged up to 30.

Industry

Commercial Property c£16,000
This health-care organisation is seeking a solicitor with 6 months' to 1 years' experience to handle a variety of commercial and commercial property matters. This is an interesting first move out of private practice.

Private Practice

Commercial Property To £25,000
This medium sized City firm urgently requires 2 ambitious solicitors with a least 1 years' commercial property experience. The busy department handles a broad range of high quality property work.

Private Practice

Employment c£18,000
Our client, a major City firm, is currently looking for young, high calibre solicitors to join their expanding employment department. Previous employment experience is preferred but not essential.

If you are interested in any of the above positions or would merely like to discuss your career in confidence, contact Laurence Simons or Steven Grubb on 01-631 2000 (01-631 1345 evenings/weekends) or write to them at The Legal Division, Michael Page Partnership, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LN.



Michael Page Partnership

International Recruitment Consultants

London Windsor Bristol Birmingham Nottingham Manchester Leeds Glasgow & Worldwide

CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

ASSISTANT SOLICITOR

CE 553 £13,653 - £14,862

This post is based in the Legal Section of the Department. The post-holder will be part of a team of solicitors supported by legal executives and clerical staff providing legal advice and services to all Departments across the full range of the Council's functions.

The emphasis of the work will be related to child care and will include advocacy but there will be the opportunity to gain broad experience.

Applications from newly qualified solicitors will be welcomed.

Relocation expenses up to £3,000 may be payable in approved cases. A flexible working hours scheme is in operation. Application form and further details from County Personnel Officer, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1LX. Tel: Chelmsford 267222 Ext. 2017.

Closing date: 22 April 1987.



SHEFFIELD

Commercial Property Lawyer

Solicitors require Commercial Lawyer with emphasis on property to undertake good quality commercial work excellent package and prospects.

Please apply in writing to:

The Senior Partner,
DIBB CLEGG BARNES
15 North Church Street
Sheffield S12 0H.

BRISTOL LITIGATION

Bennett and Legat require an Assistant Solicitor to deal with general litigation, including personal injury and civil litigation at their office at Fishponds, Bristol. Challenging position for person admitted minimum 18 months. Attractive remuneration package and working conditions.

Apply J.A. Davis, Bennett & Legat,
884 Fishponds Road, Bristol BS16 3XB.
Tel 0272-653504

Pennith District Council

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

An enthusiastic Solicitor is required at a salary of up to £15,000 per annum. If you have a flair for advocacy and wish to live in the most attractive part of Britain - we wish to hear from you. We can offer: Generous relocation allowance. Good working conditions. Suitable house prices. Assisted Car Purchase Scheme. Full details with application form available from the undersigned or by ringing Pennance (STD 0730) 62341 Extension 160.

Closing Date: Tuesday, 21st April, 1987

D.M. HOSKIN, DISTRICT SECRETARY

PENNITH DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL OFFICES, ST. CLARE

PENANCE, CORNWALL TR9 3QW.

WILDE SAPTE Commercial Lawyers

We are seeking energetic solicitors who have been qualified for up to three years to join our Company and Commercial Department. Successful candidates will work within teams dealing with a wide variety of commercial and finance matters. Much of the work has an international element. The prospects in this growing firm are excellent.

Please write with full curriculum vitae to:-

Philip Brown
Wilde Sapte
Queensbridge House
60 Upper Thames Street
London EC4V 3BD

Trust Lawyer

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FOOTBALL: FROM HUMBLE START ENGLAND'S MANAGER REACHES OUT ON A GRAND SCALE

Robson progresses from an iron tub to having Europe within his grasp

Born on February 18, 1933; known as a "natty boy" in his early years; progress to a professional footballer at the age of 17, first for Fulham and then West Bromwich Albion; advancement in November 1957 to the first of his 20 international caps for England; next, club manager of Fulham and Ipswich Town; and finally manager of the England team since the autumn of 1982 — such has been the path for Bobby Robson from the foothills up the airy mountains.

His passion for the game has been with him since his school days, when he was playing street football at the backs of terraced houses in Langley Park, a small mining village in County Durham.

The fourth of five sons of a mining family, he remains a member of an army of footballers reared in the north-east. But,

Harsh north-east childhood has served him well

unlike some of them, he has been fortunate enough to echo the fitness of a father who missed only one shift in 50 years down the pits. Good health and freedom from serious injury has been one reason for Robson's success.

Another has been a harsh upbringing in youth which often builds strength of character. Prepared to accept what was offered, Bobby was part of a family of seven (including father and mother) who used to have a weekly bath every Friday, using the same water in an iron tub in the kitchen. All that has followed in life has been a rich home. His problems of today, if different, are as of nothing compared with such a start.

Yet sturk luck awaited him on January 13,

1969, when he was appointed manager of Ipswich Town. His chairman there was John Cobbold, an old Etonian sportsman who did not seek instant success at every turn and who allowed his manager to manage the team without interference. From either end of the social scale, the Cobbold family and Robson became blood-brothers.

The outcome led Bobby to become at first time the longest-reigning manager of the first division during 13 years in which Ipswich, an unsophisticated country cousin of a club, produced a record second only to Liverpool as they finished in sixth position in the League in nine of those 13 seasons, winning both the FA Cup and the UEFA Cup with a home-made team created by Robson alone, once he had cleared the decks of a number of naturally, undisciplined players in the early years.

That revealed his strength of character, as also did his rejection, shortly before being appointed to the England job, of an offer of £230,000 from Barcelona as well as the seductive call from Sunderland. Loyalty, he proved, was a strong point. Now having steered his England side to the last eight of the World Cup in Mexico last summer, the FA has extended his contract to include the World Cup of 1990 in Italy. All Robson has failed to achieve so far is a contract for Don Howe, his right-hand man and tactical trainer.

Unusually rests the head that wears a crown. Lately little darts have been directed in Robson's direction. One suggested that John Hollins, of Chelsea, had the right qualities to lead England. There have been the usual withdrawals through so-called injuries of players chosen for Robson's squads; meanwhile Wales have challenged England to a meeting and been refused because of other

pressures, to which the Welsh have accused Robson of cowardice.

England, as it is, face four ties in the European Championship which has never come our way. Three of them will be away, in Northern Ireland tomorrow and in Turkey on April 29; next autumn will come Turkey at Wembley and a trip to Yugoslavia, who are likely to be our biggest danger. England will try to win this group with the hope of becoming one of the seeds for the World Cup.

Bobby Robson himself was once an attacking inside forward. But from 1960 he became a creative wing-half after the World Cup of 1958 in Sweden. As such, he has a special fondness for the game and a good head for husbandry, having made a £1.5m

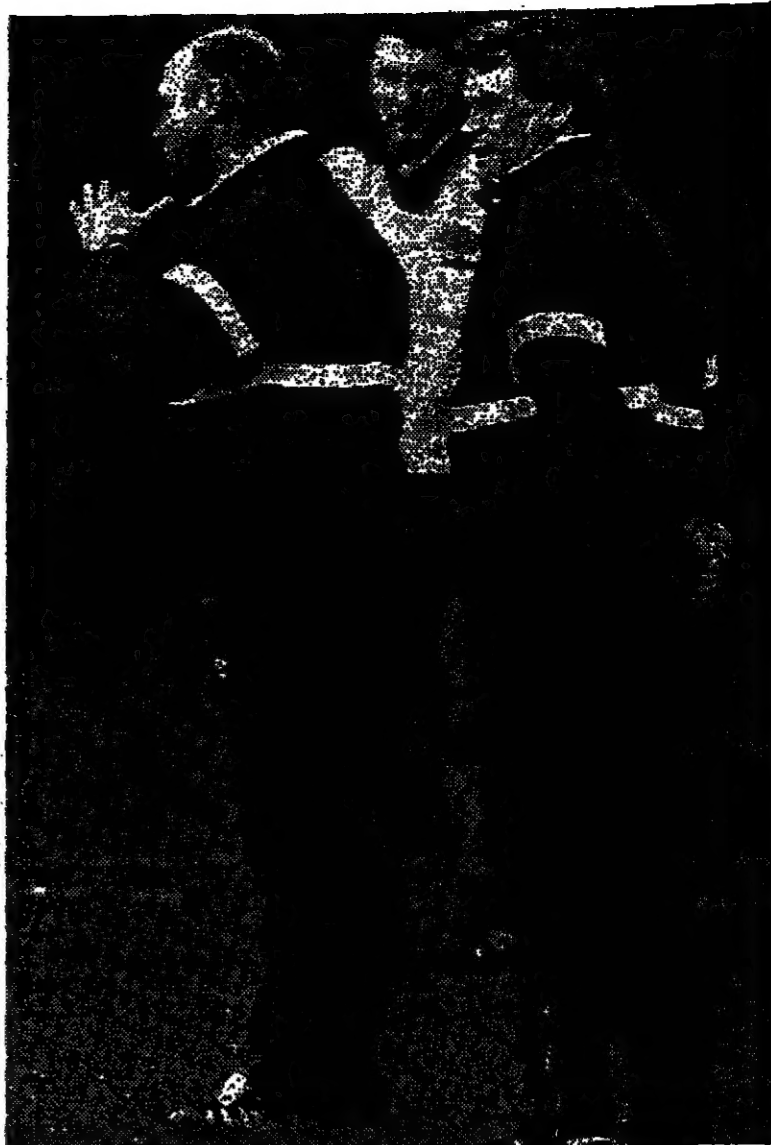
Fellow managers probably failed to heed his warning

profit for Ipswich. But he has had cause in this new year to warn managers in general with the words: "There's a price for winning, too high to pay when the prize becomes more important than the game." It is unlikely that the majority took any notice of this truth.

However, Robson has set in motion his 'school for excellence' at Lillieshall, hoping in time to produce youngsters half as good as a Manion or a Haynes.

In the old days after an international match, he would hum the song 'Try a Little Tenderness' over a drink or two with your correspondents. These early lyrics would find it hard to credit. But this is still a part of a benign disciplinarian whose humble beginnings took him in the right direction.

Geoffrey Green



Let's do it this way: Robson (right) and Terry Butcher (centre) listen as Don Howe makes a point.

Football levy case difficult to prove

The recent threat to Fulham's future led to House of Commons calls for the creation of a levy board to channel money from tax on football pools into the sport. In a special article, RICHARD FAULKNER, Deputy chairman of the Football Trust, argues against the proposal.

At an office close to Euston Station today, representatives of the Football Trust, the Professional Footballers' Association, the police, local government and an observer from the Minister for Sport will sit down to decide how to spend more than £75m in aid of football initiatives and on help for grassroots football over the next 21 months.

They will consider plans for spending £12m on local authority pitches and changing facilities in England, £100,000 for the YMCA movement, £100,000 for non-league football in Wales, two to £200,000 each for football and community centres at League clubs and for all-weather hard-surface play areas, £300,000 for improvements at non-league clubs, another £200,000 for chess, badminton, tennis, and other sports, £1.2m to help League clubs pay their policing costs and many more projects.

At a location in the City of London on Friday, a meeting was held by a Scottish Football Trust representative and Graham Kelly, secretary of the Football League, and Tom Finney, one of Britain's greatest former players, to discuss the need to spend £25 million on stadium safety and spectator amenities in 1987 and 1988.

Crowd violence a top priority

The meetings are those of the Football Trust and the Football Grounds Improvement Trust (FGIT), set up by the Football Trust in 1976. The FGIT receives 20 per cent of the Spot-the-Ball turnover, currently running at £42 million, and the FGIT (£45 million) and retains the balance themselves (£3.9 million).

The FGIT was founded in 1975 in response to the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975. It was set up to ensure that football clubs spend more than £20 million on stadium safety. Most were able to comply with the demands of local authorities only because of the 20 per cent of the Spot-the-Ball turnover they received from the FGIT. Similar clubs have particular reason to be grateful because of the pressure they faced in the aftermath of the Bradford City fire.

The Football Trust was established in 1976. It is a charity, and its funds are used for a wide range of projects, including grants to benefit football anywhere in the United Kingdom. At the Government's specific request, the trustees were instructed to pay particular attention to the safety of sports grounds — especially crowd violence.

Those responsible for drafting the Football Trust's deed, took special account of what the Royal Commission on the Football Grounds had said in 1976: "The Trust was created as an alternative to a state-run board, with representatives from all sections of the game, police, local authorities and football companies themselves."

The Royal Commission recommended that a levy board would be funded by a proportion of the money raised by the Spot-the-Ball — then 40 per cent — but it is hard to see the logic behind linking pools betting duty with funding football.

Those who support the proposal work to the benefit of the game. Are the pools to be asked to find more money from their shareholders' competition? If so, they can hardly be expected to go on continuing to pay the 10 per cent from Spot-the-Ball as well as paying clubs 50% of the net of the fixtures on the coupes.

A civil service bureaucracy

Is the Exchequer going to give us money to subsidise a year and a half of committee work, for the committee to hand over large sums to the game whether they are needed or not? Would the football authorities who welcome the grant being channelled into a civil service bureaucracy?

The problem supporters of the levy board face is demonstrating that football requires substantial financial aid. Of course, many people would like to see the building of fine new stadiums and the establishment of a wage structure that keeps the best players in the country, but it is difficult to argue that football is such a special case that it takes precedence over numerous other claims for Exchequer money.

Now that the Government and Football League have reached an accord on anti-hooliganism initiatives, the game requires a period of stability in which it can concentrate on its own problems. Of course, the money available is not unlimited. But, with assurances that the present Trust arrangements will not be upset by whichever Government comes to power after the election, there should be sufficient funds available to do what is required.

And, if a future Chancellor were to decide to give money to football, the trusts are there to ensure that it is spent wisely. There is no rational case for a state levy board.

TABLE TENNIS

Mason has a point to prove

By a Correspondent

England, top of the first division of the European League, will go into their penultimate match against Norway at Halesowen, Essex, tonight expecting to maintain an impressive, unbeaten record.

Win or lose, however, promotion to the super division will still hinge on the final match against West Germany in Wurzberg on April 9. But another victory will be a useful psychological boost.

Accordingly, the selectors — for the time being apparently still in existence despite pronouncements that they had been abolished — have resisted the temptation to rest their trump card, Desmond Douglas, who is likely to win both his singles.

The main selectorial interest will, therefore, be whether Nicky Mason, controversially omitted from the world championship squad last month, gets his first match for England in the singles or in the doubles with Skyler Andrew, with whom he is national champion.

Alison Gordon, the former champion, who has returned to playing full time for the team for the singles and the mixed doubles.

TEAMS: England: D. Douglas, S. Andrew, N. Mason, J. A. Gordon, Norway: T. Johnson, H. Gustafsson, M. H. Hager.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Anderson reassures

By Keith Macklin

Chris Anderson, the Halifax player-coach, took his wife shopping yesterday morning to allay fears in the town that he might miss the Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final at Wembley on May 2.

There was widespread concern at the weekend when it was revealed that Anderson had suffered a fractured cheek-bone late in the semi-final match against Widnes on Saturday. However, X-rays revealed a simple fracture, and after an operation the Australian drove to the Thrum Hall Ground, chatted with staff, had a cup of coffee, and then went shopping. He said: "There is no way I will miss Wembley. Injury should take about three weeks to heal."

For tomorrow's championship game with Wigan, Halifax will be without several players and will give first-team outings to those on the Wembley fringe.

RACKETS

Marlborough challenge is worn down

By William Stevens

Tonbridge won their third consecutive public schools doubles championship when they defeated Marlborough at Queen's Club yesterday in one of the best finals seen for many years.

Jonathan Longley, twice winner of the Foster Cup, and James Nance beat Alister Robinson and Guy Barker 12-15, 15-10, 13-16, 15-8, 15-7.

The Marlburians were unimpaired in attack and showed fine technique, with powerful straight hitting and severely cut service. They played some daring low kill shots but occasionally became over-adventurous.

Their opponents, a year senior, used their greater experience to weather the early Marlborough onslaught and raised their game as their opponents tired.

RESULTS: Queen's Club Public Schools Championships: Tonbridge (J. Longley and J. Nance) beat Marlborough (A. Robinson and G. Barker) 12-15, 15-10, 13-16, 15-8, 15-7. Public Schools Second Pairs Cup Final: Chilton (P. Cook and W. Stiles) beat Tonbridge (J. M. Cook and J. D. Caley) 15-13, 15-7, 15-8, 11-15, 16-17, 15-10.

TENNIS

Becker will volunteer to do 15 months national service

From a Special Correspondent, Bonn

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge dribbled through a Michael Gross did it swimmingly and Norbert Schramm skated through it. Now Boris Becker is to follow other leading West German sportsmen by volunteering for his 15 months of national service.

Karl-Heinz Becker, his father, has said that his son, aged 18, will fall in, although, as a resident of Monaco, he is clear of the call-up. He said the move had been agreed at a "family council" meeting with Boris and his trainer, "We don't know when Boris will volunteer," Herr Becker said. "But, on my word of honour, he will." Many Germans have volunteered for national service, but Becker's duty to the fatherland. The Bonn parliament have also asked questions about him avoiding the colours.

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Edited by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle

Remember the forgotten

● According to latest estimates, 250 million people suffer from severe mental illness, and the preferred method of treatment is to push them out of sight. Viewpoint 87: Forgotten Millions (ITV, 10.30pm) examines the often shocking way different nations fail to cope. In the United States, liberal legislation has led to thousands of damaged people wandering the streets, denied treatment, and often spending nights warehoused in vast dormitories with 600 beds. Japan suffers an opposite problem: there, it is all too easy to commit someone to a mental asylum and many sane people end up inside, committed by disapproving families. These institutions are described aptly as medical prisons. Most are privately owned and physical abuse is commonplace. In one such place 223 patients died in three

CHOICE

years. This excellent made documentary also visits India where the annual health budget is 80p per capita, and Egypt for a rare example of positive attitude, at a hospital near Cairo where the focus is on symptoms not activity.

● Colin Welland's Oscar-winning boast that the British were coming was generally held to be ill-judged, was much too-poor, and no doubt lived to haunt the man. Yet Welland was not wrong. Perhaps they arrived quietly by Business Class. But Hollywood has been assimilating the Brits for decades. In fact they have always been there, and, with Hollywood run more than ever by superstition and hunches, it is relatively easy for any Britisher with a bit of

credit, and a good agent, to walk into a deal. Welland's mentor David Puttnam now has his own studio there and the reward for the successful of their generation is more or less exclusive work in the sun.

The 1987 Oscars (BBC1, 10.30pm) are well represented by the British because almost nobody apart from Woody Allen is managing to score a film for people over 18. There's nothing like the British for bringing a touch of class to what is in actuality a tacky occasion.

● The radio choices both concern fame and fortune. Theatre of the Absurd: Ping Pong (Radio 3, 8.30pm) features Bill Nighy as a pinball wizard, and Thirty Minute Theatre: Key to the Door (Radio 4, 11am) has Timothy Spall as a supermarket shelf-stacker dreaming of stardom.

Chris Pettit



Emma Thompson and Robbie Coltrane in episode five of Tatti Frutti (BBC1, 9.30pm)

BBC1

6.00 Ceefax AM, 6.55 Weather.
7.00 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough, Sally Magnusson, and Jeremy Paxman. National and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30. Regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25.

8.40 Watchdog. Consumer complaints investigated by Lynn Fauds Wood and John Stapleton. 8.55 Regional news and weather.

9.00 News and weather. 9.05 Day to Day. Robert Kilroy Silk, his guests, and studio audience, discuss a topical subject. 9.45 Advice Shop. Margo MacDonald explains the new maternity benefit that comes into effect on April 6.

10.00 News and weather. 10.05 Neighbours (r) 10.25 Children's BBC. Philip Schofield with programme news, and birthday greetings. 10.30 Play School, presented by Iain Lauchlan with guest, Elizabeth Watts. (r) 10.40 Paddington. (r)

10.55 Five to Eleven. Alan Bennett with a thought for the day. 11.00 News and weather. 11.05 BBC2. The last programme in Judi Spence's money-saving ideas series. 11.30 Open Air. Viewers choose television output. Includes news and weather at 12.00.

12.20 The Tom O'Connor Roadshow. Variety from the Alhambra Theatre, Bradford. 12.55 Regional news and weather.

1.00 One O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. Weather. 1.25 Neighbours. Daphne is puzzled by things that go on in the night. 1.50 Gran (r) 1.55 Animal Fair. (r)

2.05 Evita Peron. The second and final part of the dramatization of the life of one of the most powerful women in the world. Starring Faye Dunaway and

James Farentino. (r) 3.35 The Pick Panther Show. (r) 3.50 Bertha, narrated by Roy Kinnear and Sheila Walker. (r) 4.10 The Hunter. (r) 4.15 Jackanory. Victoria Wood and Martin Jarvis with Allan Ahlberg's Ten in a Bed. 4.25 Bananaman. (r) 4.30 The Album includes collecting tea cards.

5.00 John Craven's Newsround. 5.05 Seaview. The first of a six-part story set in a boarding house. (r) 5.35 The Flintstones. (r)

6.00 Six O'Clock News with Nicholas Witchell and Philip Heyton. Weather. (r)

6.35 London Plus. 6.35 Holiday '87 introduced by Frank Bough. Gillian Reynolds is in Australia: former Chief Constable John Alderson investigates a 'sleuth' weekend; and John Pitman soaks up the sun in Morocco. (r)

7.30 EastEnders. Dan is delighted with his divorce. (Ceefax)

8.00 Brush Strokes. (Ceefax) series starring Karl Howman as an amateur painter and decorator. (r) (Ceefax)

8.30 Dear John. The final episode of the series starring Ralph Bates as a man trying to come to terms with his divorce. (r) (Ceefax)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Nicholas Witchell and Philip Heyton. Regional news and weather.

9.30 Tatti Frutti. Robbie Coltrane stars as Danny McGillicuddy, the ageing leader of a 25-year-old rock and roll band, this evening recording their Silver Anniversary album. (Ceefax)

10.30 The 1987 Oscars. Barry Norman introduces highlights of the 58th Academy Awards ceremony. Among those presenting the statuette are Paul Hogan, Madonna, Lauren Bacall, and Anthony Quinn. (see Choice)

12.10 Weather.

BBC 2

6.55 Open University: Technology - Electric Music. Ends at 7.25. 9.00 Gharbar. This week's edition of the magazine programme for Asian women includes an interview with Robin Mir, a designer and manufacturer of children's clothes. 9.25 Ceefax.

9.55 Daytime on Two: Mary Queen of Scots 10.15 Part ten of Fair Ground: 10.30 The Science of Vibrations 11.00 The Commonwealth Institute's carnival 11.17 Leisure activities offered by Aviemore 11.27 Designing a party outfit.

11.57 YTS and fifth formers discover how a union can help them. 12.18 Going to the Club. Ceefax. 1.35 A newcast from France's newest television channel 1.38 School stories old and new 2.00 News and weather 2.02 For the young.

2.15 Cameo. The birdies of the mudflats of Waddenze. 2.25 Songs of Praise from Clarendon Park Methodist Church, Leicester. (shown last Sunday) (Ceefax)

3.00 News and weather. 3.03 Newsnight Afternoon presented by Nick Clarke. 3.50 News, regional news, and weather.

4.00 Pamela Armstrong. 4.35 Path to the Sea. Siobhan Leary, a natural freshwater lake in the West Country, seen through the eyes of a grass snake. (r)

5.05 My Music. (r) 5.30 Tomorrow's World. (r) 6.00 The Claret. The tenth and final episode of the drama based on A.J. Cronin's story set in a Welsh mining community. (r)

6.55 100 Great Sporting Moments. Foxhunter and Col Harry Lewellyn in the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki. 7.00 The Crown. The first semi-final of the invitation Pairs Crown Green Bowling Tournament. Tommy Johnstone and Eddie Hubert meet Arthur Murray and Ian Hogg. 7.45 One Man and His Dog. The final of the Brace and Singles competitions.

8.30 Mediterranean Cookery. Claudia Roden's Turkish. (Ceefax)

9.00 Film: Quartet (1981) starring Alan Bates, Maggie Smith, Isabelle Adjani, and Anthony Higgins. Drama, based on Jean Rhys's novel set in Paris in 1927, about a young woman who drifts into a bizarre ménage à trois when her husband is jailed for art trafficking. Directed by James Ivory.

10.40 Newsnight includes a report from Charles Wheeler in Russia. 11.25 Weather. 11.30 Daniel Barenboim plays the Piano Sonata No 23 Op 57, the 'Appassionata'.

12.00 Open University: Physics - Which Way to Turn? Ends at 12.30.

ITV/LONDON

6.15 TV-am introduced by Richard Keys. Weather at 6.25 and 6.30; sport at 6.40; and exercises at 6.55. 7.00 Good Morning Britain presented by Anna Diamond and Mike Morris. News at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; cartoon at 7.25; sport at 7.40; pop music at 7.55; and postbag at 8.35. After Nine includes Neil Patrick Harris, Michael Wood, fashion expert Merril Thomas dressing late ladies, and at 9.17, exercises with Lizzie Webb.

9.25 Thames news headlines. 9.30 Schools: Diana Quick reads poems about animals. 9.50 Making a video. 10.05 How posters and pictures are printed. 10.25 Chemistry. 10.40 For GCSE geography students. 11.10 British folk dances. 11.27 The wonder of human reproduction. 11.44 Children's relationships with those in authority.

12.00 Tickle on the Tum. Village tales for the young. (r) 12.10 Rainbows. Learning with puppets. (r) 12.30 The Sullivan. Drama serial about an Australian family during the 1940s.

1.00 News at One with Leonard Parkin. 1.20 Thames news. 1.30 Bulman. George goes behind bars to corner an armed gang of robbers operating on the inside. Starring Don Henderson and Siobhan Redmond. (r)

2.30 Daytime. Frutti Kennedy chairs a discussion on capital punishment. With, among others, MPs Sir Ian Perovich and Clive Selby; Frances Crook; Charles O'Leary; George Thatcher, who was once sentenced to hang; and the mother of P.C. Oids.

3.00 Cross Wit. Crossword puzzle game presented by Barry Cryer. With Roy Hudd and June Whitfield. 3.25 Thames news headlines. 3.30 The Young Doctors. Medical drama serial set in a large

CHANNEL 4

2.15 Their Lordships' House. (r) 2.30 Film: The Crimes of Stephen Hawker (1936) starring Tod Slaughter, Marjorie Taylor, and Eric Portman. Regency melodrama about a seemingly benevolent moneylender who is really a mass murderer. Directed by George King.

3.45 Years Ahead. Magazine programme for the older viewer, presented by Robert Douglas. This afternoon's edition includes reports on the community's plan to stay together after the demolition of the Divis Flats in Belfast; Scotland's new Community Tax; and benefits for Garsna. Plus, advice on how to treat burns.

4.30 Countdown. Yesterday's winner is challenged by Keith Newby, a retired headmaster from Shildon, Co Durham.

5.00 Switched. Vintage American comedy about a modern-day witch.

5.30 Great Walks. The Gilbert family from Yorkshire take the coastal walk from Cape Wrath lighthouse southwards to Sandwood Bay. (r)

6.00 Shane. Marauding Indians interrupt Shane's plans to take the widow Starrett to a dance. Starring David Carradine and Jill Ireland.

7.00 Channel 4 News with Peter Sissons and Christobel King. Includes extended coverage of Mrs Thatcher's questioning by Russian television journalists.

7.50 Comment followed by Weather.

8.00 Brookside. Tracy discovers that giving the customer what he asks for is not always a good idea; and Bobby manages to refuse a free gift.

8.30 4 What's It Worth. Consumer affairs programme presented by Penny Junior. John Stoneborough investigates a scheme which cons the unemployed out of their money with the promise of jobs; Bill Breckon examines the safety of some charter yachts; and David Stafford discovers the best buy in coffee.

9.00 Film: Act of Passion (1984) starring Marie Thomas and Kris Kristofferson. A made for television drama about an innocent woman's brief encounter with a terrorist which leads to her being hounded by the police and an unscrupulous newspaperman. Directed by Simon Langton.

10.45 Just For Laughs. Highlights from a Festival of Comedy held in Montreal. Among those appearing are Hale and Pace, Louis Anderson, and Jerry Lewis.

11.15 Comedy Wavelength. Comedy show written by people new to television.

11.40 Ask Dr Ruth. Ruth Westheimer's guest is Angie Dickinson.

12.05 Their Lordships' House. Ends at 12.20.

VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALES 5.25pm-6.00pm Wales Today 6.25-7.00 Computer Challenge 12.10pm-12.15 News and weather. 5.00-5.15pm 12.15pm-1.00pm 5.25pm-6.00pm 6.25pm-7.00pm 7.00pm-7.30pm 7.30pm-8.00pm 8.00pm-8.30pm 8.30pm-9.00pm 9.00pm-9.30pm 9.30pm-10.00pm 10.00pm-10.30pm 10.30pm-11.00pm 11.00pm-11.30pm 11.30pm-12.00pm 12.00pm-12.30pm 12.30pm-1.00pm 1.00pm-1.30pm 1.30pm-2.00pm 2.00pm-2.30pm 2.30pm-3.00pm 3.00pm-3.30pm 3.30pm-4.00pm 4.00pm-4.30pm 4.30pm-5.00pm 5.00pm-5.30pm 5.30pm-6.00pm 6.00pm-6.30pm 6.30pm-7.00pm 7.00pm-7.30pm 7.30pm-8.00pm 8.00pm-8.30pm 8.30pm-9.00pm 9.00pm-9.30pm 9.30pm-10.00pm 10.00pm-10.30pm 10.30pm-11.00pm 11.00pm-11.30pm 11.30pm-12.00pm 12.00pm-12.30pm 12.30pm-1.00pm 1.00pm-1.30pm 1.30pm-2.00pm 2.00pm-2.30pm 2.30pm-3.00pm 3.00pm-3.30pm 3.30pm-4.00pm 4.00pm-4.30pm 4.30pm-5.00pm 5.00pm-5.30pm 5.30pm-6.00pm 6.00pm-6.30pm 6.30pm-7.00pm 7.00pm-7.30pm 7.30pm-8.00pm 8.00pm-8.30pm 8.30pm-9.00pm 9.00pm-9.30pm 9.30pm-10.00pm 10.00pm-10.30pm 10.30pm-11.00pm 11.00pm-11.30pm 11.30pm-12.00pm 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